

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Hinchey-Wolf amendment. My constituents need electricity in their homes, their businesses and their communities. This amendment will deprive my constituents and the people of Pennsylvania of low-cost energy.

In 2005, the Republican-led Congress passed the bipartisan Energy Policy Act, 275–156. In section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act, the Department of Energy was required to identify and report a National Transmission Congestion and Constraint Study.

The study identified two areas as inadequate: the Mid-Atlantic region, which encompasses my district, and the southwest-southern California region. With no coincidence, in 2002 these same areas were identified as problem areas. They were identified in two separate studies, 5 years apart, because there is an overwhelming need to build the infrastructure to supply the increasing demand for energy. The lack of necessary infrastructure in these areas imposes billions of dollars on consumers annually and leaves the citizens of the country vulnerable to rolling blackouts.

On April 26, 2007, the Department of Energy issued two draft versions for transmission corridors, one traversing my home State and its neighboring regions and the other in southern California. The public comment period remains open for written submissions until July 6. In addition, the Energy Policy Act requires studies every 3 years.

This amendment would require a needless, burdensome study, which in effect, would study two previous and congruent studies. At best, with this amendment, we are questioning whether or not to repeal sections of a successful, bipartisan bill, extensively debated and enacted less than 2 years ago, when the process so clearly works, the need is clearly there and the effects of inaction are so clearly dire. Let's allow the process to work. Let us have faith in our positive work in the Energy Policy Act.

## TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL L. PULTE

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael L. Pulte for his years of service to community and country.

That exemplary record began when he served as a member of the armed services from 1955 to 1957, with particular duties in Fort Knox and in Germany.

After his military service, he joined Hudson's Department Store and opened the second department store branch in the country. Following, his time at Hudson's, Mr. Pulte was employed by O'Neill's in Akron, Ohio and then Horne's Department Store. Rising through the ranks at Horne's, he eventually was appointed Director of Stores in 1977, Vice President of Operations in 1980, and, in January of 1991, President, Chairman, and CEO of Joseph Horne Company.

During his presidency, Mr. Pulte served as member and president of the Golden Triangle Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Civic Light Opera, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Cultural District. He is also a member of the Duquesne Club. In June of 1994, Mr. Pulte retired.

During his retirement, he became active in local politics and was appointed Vice Chair of the Pine Township Planning Commission, Vice Chair of the Township Police Board, and was elected to the Township Board of Supervisors.

In addition to this community involvement, he served on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Leather Co. in Milwaukee and taught classes at IUP Business School.

Mr. Pulte currently resides in Naples, FL and continues to remain active in the community of Island Walk, where he has served on a number of committees and is past chairman of finance for the Homeowner's Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mr. Michael L. Pulte for his many years of success within the business community and for his outstanding contributions to the quality of life of the communities in which he has lived and worked.

## IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of H.R. 2764 and want to convey my appreciation to Chairwoman LOWEY for the inclusion of international family planning provisions in the State-Foreign Ops FY08 Appropriations bill. In total, H.R. 2764 allocates \$441 million for such programs, which represents an increase of \$116 million above the

President's request. This increase is designed to ease restrictions on access to contraceptives and family planning information that is crucial to help women and men throughout the developing world make informed decisions on their reproductive health needs.

Since 1984, U.S. international family planning assistance has been stymied by the Mexico City Policy or the "Global Gag rule." The Mexico City Policy prevents any U.S. funding for reproductive health from going towards family planning organizations that provide abortions. H.R. 2764 and the Lowey amendment allows non-governmental organizations to receive U.S. donated contraceptives—not funds—for distribution to millions of people in need of these products. The bill does nothing to alter or weaken the ten provisions in the bill that ban federal funds for abortion overseas. Providing contraceptives to men and women in the developing world helps prevent abortions and unwanted pregnancy as well as sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS. I urge my colleagues to support a saner foreign assistance package that allows for families throughout the world that are in desperate need of contraception the ability to make important, personal decisions about their families and reproductive health.

## TRIBUTE TO 1ST BATTALION, 11TH MARINES

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute a group of individuals whose dedication and sacrifice for our country are exceptional. On Saturday, June 23, 2007, the City of San Juan Capistrano, located in my congressional district, will host a pre-deployment send-off for its adopted Mines and their families. I regret I will not be able to attend the event to shake the hands of these outstanding men and women as they deploy to Iraq.

The 1st Battalion, 11th Marines have existed since World War I and have participated in every U.S. conflict since. Their mission is to provide continuous, all-weather, close artillery support to infantry and armor forces conducting combat operations.

Military service is not easy but it is necessary. These Marines have chosen a profession that demands sacrifice and they go forth willingly to serve a greater purpose. In the months ahead, the battalion will be facing challenging and dangerous missions. My thoughts and prayers are with each of them as they embark on their deployment and also with their families who have a different burden to bear in their absence. I look forward to the day when I can welcome home each member of the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines and witness the happy reunions of families separated for too long.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN LODGE NO.  
310 OF COLLEGEVILLE, PA

## HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a local Mason's Lodge, the Warren Lodge No. 310 located in Collegeville, PA, for its 150th anniversary this Saturday, June 23, 2007. Dr. J. Warren Royer, a well-respected doctor who was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, founded the Warren Lodge in 1857. Since its inception, the Warren Lodge has held a position of distinction in American Freemasonry. Most recently, one of Warren Lodge's officers, Mr. Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., was elected to the highest position in Freemasonry, that of Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania from 2002–2003. Throughout his term, he helped fellow Masonic Villages improve their organizations and uphold the traditions and customs of the Freemasons, including those located in Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill and Sewickley, PA. He also supervised the restoration of the historic Memorial Arch located at Valley Forge National Park.

The Warren Lodge continues to maintain an impressive facility called the R.W.G.M. Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr. Museum. One of the many treasures on display is an exact replica of the 1752 Philip Syng Inksstand, the original of which is currently on display at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Philip Syng was the R.W.G.M. of Pennsylvania in 1743, and it was his inksstand that was used by the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In addition, George Washington called for its use once again when the U.S. Constitution was signed in Philadelphia.

At this year's anniversary celebration, the Warren Lodge's special guest of honor will be the current Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania, Mr. Ronald A. Aungst, Sr. The members and officers of Warren Lodge will present to Mr. Aungst, Sr. an exact replica of the Syng Inksstand, honoring his exemplary service and dedication to upholding the ancient tradition of Masons helping Masons daily.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my fellow Members join me today in congratulating the Warren Lodge, No. 310 for this historic milestone and wish them 150 more years of honorable service to their lodge and community. Thank you.

## ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

## HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2008 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, through which this Congress and this government speak to the world about our international priorities.

The past decade has seen this nation pull into a shell like a turtle, something the rest of the world took as not caring about the fundamental challenges elsewhere in the world . . . before those challenges became full-fledged hot spots. We are a great Nation, a leader among nations. We must only act in that fashion. Today, we begin a new direction in foreign policy.

While this Foreign Operations bill deals specifically with our global footprint, it also has benefit for those that live near international borders. For instance, I am pleased the bill includes \$15.5 million for the Rio Grande Flood Control System Rehabilitation, a matter my border colleagues and I have been working on for several years.

These funds will allow the International Boundary and Water Commission to begin repairing and restoring the 270 miles of levees along the Rio Grande River. This is only a first step to fully restore the integrity of the levees, the cost for restoration is estimated at \$125 million. These funds were requested by the South Texas Delegation, including Congressman HINOJOSA and Congressman CUELLAR.

Over the last few years, budget limitations have not allowed the IBWC to properly maintain the levees. Used by Border Patrol to patrol the border and farmers to manage their land, the levees have severely deteriorated to the point that some areas are flat. In their current form, the IBWC is unable to certify the levees meaning the 1.3 million residents along this area are in danger of severe flooding. Hurricane Katrina showed us the awesome and dangerous power of Mother Nature. This funding is critical to prevent an international flooding disaster . . . a disaster that will remain possible until all the levees are repaired so IBWC can certify them. This is—quite literally—the least we can do to begin to fix this damage.

I thank the appropriators for including this funding and their recognition of the danger that is as far away as a powerful flooding event. I urge the House negotiators to keep this amount of funding included in this bill through conference.

## IN MEMORY OF ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES CHANEY AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER

## HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today before the House to honor the memory of 3 young men: Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner. Forty-three years ago, today, these young men paid the ultimate price when they were ruthlessly murdered by those who wished to silence their outcry for equality.

On June 21, 1964, in Neshoba County, Mississippi, Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner were pulled over and subsequently arrested for allegedly speeding. After being denied their basic rights as prisoners, they were fined \$20

and released. But Mississippi in 1964 was a dangerous place for civil rights workers; they were followed and assaulted by a group of Ku Klux Klan members. The young activists were never seen alive again.

The summer of 1964 became known as Freedom Summer. Students from around the country were united in a single vital struggle against racial inequality. Over 1,000 young volunteers traveled to Mississippi that summer with the intention of registering African American voters. They defied the local authorities, who were determined to undermine their efforts and succeeded in establishing dozens of quality summer schools and registering thousands of voters.

These volunteers came for various reasons. Some, like Schwerner and Goodman, came to Mississippi from the North to express their commitment to social justice. Others, like Chaney, volunteered because they were dedicated to the improvement of their own community. However, the unlikely trio of 2 New York Jews and an African American from the South were united in their unwavering devotion to ensure civil rights for all.

Even today, we must continue in the struggle for universal civil rights, as our society is not yet free from bigotry and injustice. The terrible murders of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner acted as sparks that further ignited the passion of everyday Americans to take a public stand against prejudice. As we remember these heroes of the civil rights movement, we must also aspire to emulate their tireless commitment to fairness and equality.

Madam Speaker, I hope Americans today will remember the sacrifices of these 3 young men to underscore our commitment to the continuing efforts towards achieving the full potential of our great Nation.

## THE EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ACT OF 2007

## HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about the Education for Public Service Act of 2007, which I introduced earlier this week. In short, the Education for Public Service Act would make it easier for college graduates and those with advanced degrees to choose careers in government or non-profit enterprise. It will give those young people who attend higher education aspiring to become teachers, first responders, law enforcement officers, nurses, and civil servants a real chance to realize their dreams.

The rising cost of higher education has led to greater and greater student debt that in turn has become an impediment for many young people who would otherwise choose a career in service. Physicians who might choose to work in community health centers or individuals who want to inspire our Nation's youth as teachers are unable to follow their passion as a result of staggering debt. Our best and brightest are increasingly driven by this debt to choose entry-level positions based on salaries that will enable them to repay loans. Career choices should not be made this way.

In my home State of Maryland, the average starting salary for teachers is \$36,000; nationally, the average starting salary is \$30,377.

According to CRS, the average cost of tuition, other fees, and room and board at a public 4-year university exceeds \$48,000. At a private university that figure climbs to almost \$120,000. Predictably, fewer graduates are entering the teaching profession. In fact, more than 50 percent of teacher education program graduates never even enter the teaching profession. More than 50 percent of new teachers leave the profession within their first 5 years in the field. We are also facing a crisis of human capital in the Federal workforce. Approximately half of the Federal workforce is eligible for retirement or early retirement. Federal agencies like the Social Security Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are bracing for serious worker shortages resulting from attrition. Madam Speaker, these are such important jobs and yet we have done very little to replenish these ranks. Clearly more can be done to provide sufficient incentives to young workers—the next generation of public servants—to join the civil service. But we ought to start by removing the barriers that affirmatively preclude young people from joining.

In 1993, Congress created the income-contingent repayment option to help individuals earning lower salaries deal with the burden of student loans. Under this plan, borrowers' repayment obligations are capped at a percentage of their annual income and any remaining principal is forgiven at the end of 25 years. But because 25 years of repayment seems so daunting to an individual just finishing college, this initiative has not resolved the underlying problem. The Education for Public Service Act of 2007 would modify the current income-contingent repayment program to provide loan forgiveness after 10 years rather than 25 years, so long as the borrower has worked for a government agency or a charitable or tax-exempt organization during the repayment period.

Madam Speaker, the Education for Public Service Act of 2007 will help ensure that service to one's Nation and community will no longer be out of reach for our next generation. In closing, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Congressman GEORGE MILLER whom I have worked with in developing this legislation. Chairman MILLER has led the Education and Labor Committee with a focus on American families and American students and I am very pleased that he has included the Education for Public Service Act as part of his College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which will increase support for students and families with no new costs to taxpayers. If we enact this legislation, idealistic students will be able to attend our institutions of higher learning knowing that they will be able to realize their dreams.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 406 and the far reaching achievements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, also known as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. There is no question that women in this country have come a long way in the past 35 years, and there is little doubt that much of that progress is a result of title IX.

Prior to the passage of title IX, it was commonplace for colleges and universities to refuse admission to women simply on the basis of their gender. Of the handful of female college professors, most taught at all-female colleges, received salaries lower than their male counterparts, and very few were ever awarded tenure. Back then, schools could deny women training in fields deemed "inappropriate" such as woodworking or automotive repair, and girls are discouraged from studying math and science. Only 1 in 27 girls played high school sports, and female college athletes received only 2 percent of overall athletic budgets.

This landmark legislation, passed in 1972, prohibits gender-based discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities. Its effects have been felt far beyond the classroom and athletic field.

Today, women earn undergraduate and graduate degrees at much higher rates, even comprising a majority of undergraduate and graduate school enrollment. Women can no longer be denied access to the vocational courses of their choice, and girls now take upper-level math and science classes at the same rate as boys. Additionally, female participation in intercollegiate athletics has increased by 400 percent over the past 30 years. In high school athletics, female participation has increased by 800 percent.

Title IX's passage has allowed girls and women to see no boundaries to their potential. Today, they can look around and see female doctors, lawyers, astronauts, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, Nobel laureates and NASCAR drivers. They even have a female Speaker of this House to serve as their role model. Title IX has led to the advancement of women in countless areas of our society. However, the work of title IX is not yet complete.

Still today, women, on average, earn only 75 cents for every \$1 a man earns. Even more, women continue to lag behind men in earning doctoral and professional degrees. In academia, women earn less, hold lower ranking positions and are less likely to be awarded tenure than men. Despite comprising over 50 percent of the student population, women make up only 42 percent of high school and college varsity athletes, and male athletes receive \$137 million more than female athletes in college athletic scholarships. That does not

even take into account the barriers that title IX does not address. Negative stereotypes, subtle discrimination, and workplace practices that indirectly adversely affect women are still pervasive in our society.

Mr. Speaker, even in this great body, which is supposed to be representative of the American people, only 17 percent of our Members are female. Therefore, while we celebrate title IX's accomplishments over the last 35 years, it is necessary to remember that the struggle for gender equity continues.

I proudly commend Congresswoman HIRONO for introducing this resolution which celebrates the far reaching accomplishments of title IX. I look forward to the day that all Americans are able to achieve their promise regardless of their gender.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE WAR ON TERROR

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the continued need for accountability in the war on terror. I support the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, but must register my concerns about the money we pledge to send to Pakistan.

Clear rules and accountability are vital to winning the war on terror. Just as we attach benchmarks and set goals for the money the United States sends to Iraq and Afghanistan, we must do the same for Pakistan—especially if Pakistan is to continue as a true partner in this fight.

While Iraq continues to smolder, Osama bin Laden—the murderer of more than 3,000 innocent Americans is still at large. President Bush said at a press conference 5 years ago, that he "didn't spend much time on him."

Recently, when asked why bin Laden hadn't been brought to justice yet he said: "Why is he still at large? Because we haven't got him yet . . . That's why. And he's hiding, and we're looking, and we will continue to look until we bring him to justice."

This is not good enough.

Meanwhile, the Taliban is resurgent in Afghanistan and American commanders on the ground are asking for more troops to fight terror, hunt down al Qaeda and kill Osama bin Laden.

Madam Speaker, we need to win the war on terror—and that means hunting down bin Laden and al Qaeda wherever they are. That means—above all else—success in Afghanistan.

Our troops over there are doing an amazing job and they deserve our continued support. It is getting harder for them, especially along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan—and in some of the areas where we believe bin Laden is still at large.

I have always said that we needed to be tough and smart in fighting the war on terror. That means asking tough questions—even of our friends. One question that needs to be asked—especially as we prepare to send them \$300 million dollars—is about Pakistan's President Musharraf.

Right now we can count President Musharraf as an ally but is he doing all he can

to hunt bin Laden? We cannot afford to let a mass murderer slip through our fingers again.

The U.S. has sent \$5.6 billion in military reimbursements to Pakistan for counterterrorism efforts—this is \$80 million a month. We are about to vote to send them even more.

In the early days of the war in Afghanistan, President Bush decided to out-source the hunt for bin Laden in Tora Bora. Now we need to examine—are we relying too much on Pakistan and their accord with tribal warlords near the Afghan border for the same reason?

Why do we, the United States of America, continue to send roughly \$1 billion per year to Pakistan if they are going to slash patrols through the area where al Qaeda and Taliban fighters are most active?

Why, as Senator REED has said, are we reimbursing Pakistan for their efforts instead of, “paying for specific objectives?”

Is it true, as two American analysts and one American soldier reported—that Pakistani security forces fired in direct support of Taliban ground attacks on Afghan Army posts?

Families in the 8th District of Pennsylvania voted me here to ask tough questions and demand accountability.

I hope over the coming weeks and months this Congress gets answers to these vital questions so we can effectively prosecute the war on terror.

We can win the war on terror but after more than 4 years in Iraq and nearly 6 years in Afghanistan, we need to demand more results.

Madam Speaker, by asking the tough questions we can continue to support the troops who are fighting bravely to secure our Nation.

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IN HONOR OF MICHAEL RUCKA

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**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a man who is a true defender of the needs and interests of injured workers. Michael Rucka's long and distinguished career has proven him to be worthy of the Workers Injury Litigation Group Lifetime Achievement Award, which he will receive on June 23, 2007.

As a senior founding partner of the Rucka, O'Boyle, Lombardo & McKenna Attorney practice, Michael proves to be an outstanding and committed leader. Not only does his hard work make him shine as a perfect candidate for the Lifetime Achievement Award, but Michael's pursuit of reform in worker's compensation systems in the United States also highlights his devotion to his career but especially to his clients—the working man and woman.

Madam Speaker, Michael Rucka exemplifies exceptional skill and service to a worthy social cause and I am honored to be able to acknowledge him as one of the most valuable lawyers of our time. The contributions and efforts that he has made and will continue to make are invaluable.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH  
BIRTHDAY OF LEO Y. LEE

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th birthday of Mr. Leo Y. Lee, and to honor his past, present, and future contributions to the Asian-American community. We celebrate his first 50 years, his energy, determination, and lifelong service to our diverse communities.

Mr. Lee immigrated to the United States in 1975 from Hong Kong. Mr. Lee attended Vincennes University in Indiana in 1975 and Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art on full tuition scholarships. He became a licensed engineer with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Mr. Lee was elected president of the Chinese American Association of the City of New York from 1994 through 1996. This group is a fraternal organization of 4,000 Chinese-American managerial and civil service employees for the city of New York.

In June 1996, Mr. Lee was selected to participate in the Coro Partnership Leadership Enhancement and Networking Program for his demonstrated leadership, commitment, and community involvement.

Since 1996, Mr. Lee has been a member of the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA—New York Chapter. OCA is a national organization that promotes equal opportunity and equal treatment of Asian Americans. Mr. Lee has served as president of the New York Chapter from 1999 through 2002, during which time he advocated for fair treatment and justice for Dr. Wen Ho Lee, mentored Chinatown youth initiatives, a fledgling leadership organization, and organized candidate forums to address the concerns of the Chinese immigrant community.

He was elected to the OCA National Executive Council in October 2002 on which he served as the vice president of membership. In 2005, he was the recipient of OCA National Unsung Heroes Award. Today, Mr. Lee continues to serve on the board of directors of OCA's New York chapter.

Earlier this year, Mr. Lee was selected to serve on the New York City Council's Discrimination and Harassment Task Force.

Mr. Lee is also a loving father, engaged in his community as a parent. In 2006, Mr. Lee was elected a member-at-large of the Parents' Association of Stuyvesant High School. Finally, Mr. Lee has been elected co-president of the Parents' Association for the fall 2007—spring 2008 school year.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Lee for his leadership and continued service to the community, and wish him a very happy birthday.

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DEDICATED TO PROVIDING QUALITY  
HEALTH CARE—A TRIBUTE  
TO BETTY JEAN KERR

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor Betty Jean Kerr as she cele-

brates 30 years of successful service as CEO of People's Health Centers, PHC. Under her dedicated leadership, the medically underserved and uninsured receive comprehensive medical treatment daily across the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The St. Louis community will celebrate Ms. Kerr during a very special Gala Weekend, which includes a historical renaming of PHC to the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers. This is a fitting tribute for an extraordinary woman who has been credited with taking her vision of community health to an international level.

PHC Health Centers, PHC, has a 35 year history of providing essential primary care and prevention health education risk reduction services. Under Kerr's leadership, the PHC campus is now a sprawling community of apartments for the elderly, housing for persons with disabilities, social security services, primary health care, dental services, a pharmacy, affordable homes, small businesses, and school-based sites that provide increased access to health in conjunction with health center locations. All health services are provided by clinicians who are accountable for addressing the personal health needs of the residents in St. Louis. The success of PHC is a true reflection of Kerr's commitment and dedication to ensuring that primary care and prevention services are efficiently provided, regardless of a patient's socioeconomic status.

Kerr has also ventured beyond medical treatment by incorporating medical research into PHC. By partnering with government agencies, teaching institutions, and a host of other participants, PHC is able to conduct clinical research trials in an effort to improve health outcomes for medically underserved persons with chronic diseases. And reduce health disparities. Ms. Kerr has a strong belief that every citizen has the right to a long and healthy life. She continues creating unique programs, such as the Sharing the Care Program, which allows eligible PHC participants to receive life-saving drugs free of charge.

Kerr has recently extended her mission of serving the underserved through the Betty Jean Kerr Scholarship. These College Family Life Assistant Scholarships are awarded to African American students with an interest in higher education in the fields of health and health related professions.

Madam Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Betty Jean Kerr today before Congress. She is not only a local hero, but is indeed a national treasure. Her tireless work to make healthcare affordable and accessible to all makes her more than worthy of this honor. It is with great privilege that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Betty Jean Kerr.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. TOM  
AND MRS. LOIS MILLER ON THE  
OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WED-  
DING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the institution of marriage is one of the most effective traditions in civilized society which organizes, holds together and perpetuates continuation of

civilized humanity and to many it is both a civil and religious act and whereas, Tom and Lois Miller have shared 50 years of holy matrimony, I am pleased to pause and wish them well as they reach this important milestone. Tom and Lois met in McCool, Mississippi while teenagers and were married after coming to Chicago by Rev. Daniel A. Williams on January 14, 1957. Tom worked at CELO Steel and later went to the R.C. Cola Company where he retired after a long and satisfying career. Lois pursued a career in cosmetology, became one of the best in her field and subsequently opened her own business, the L & L Beauty Salon which has been in existence for 47 years.

Mr. Speaker, Tom and Lois Miller became and still are pillars of their community. They raised 4 daughters, have 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Ever since their marriage they have been rocks of the Greater Zion MB Church. They were founding members of the 4500 W. Congress Block Club in Chicago, have been active in many other civic and social endeavors and for the past 10 years have lived in Westchester, Illinois, where they have immersed themselves into community life.

Madam Speaker, 50 years is a long time and when you can spend those 50 years in a state of peace, happiness and productive engagement, you have been truly blessed, just as you have blessed others. I have been told that "to those to whom much is given, much is expected in return."

The Millers have been fortunate to have a great family, great children, grandchildren, friends and other relatives. Their children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends have been fortunate to have the Millers in their lives and I close my comments with congratulations to Tom and Lois Miller, wish them well and trust that they will have many more years of happy and blissful marriage.

COMMEMORATING 45 YEARS OF  
DEDICATED SERVICE CITY MAN-  
AGER JACKIE WILSON HAS  
GIVEN TO THE COMMUNITY OF  
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I wish to commemorate the 45 years of dedicated service City Manager Jackie Wilson has given to the community of Douglas, Georgia.

From the beginning, Jackie Wilson has raced out of the gate full speed with a pragmatic approach to community development. She started as Executive Secretary to the City Manager of Douglas in 1962. In 1972, she transferred to the Urban Renewal Department as Assistant Director, and in 1974 became the Director of Urban Renewal. In 1975 when Urban Renewal was phased out, she became the Director of Community Development. In 1995, she was named Assistant City Manager. In January of 2002, when the former City Manager resigned, she was appointed City Manager.

During her time of service she has received numerous outstanding awards. In 1985, she

received the Douglas-Coffee County Outstanding Leadership and Service Award. In 1992, the Georgia Municipal Association Eighth District Community Leadership Award. In 2006, she received the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority Women In Leadership Award. This award will now be given annually and has been named the "Jackie L. Wilson Women In Leadership Award". In 2007 she has been selected as an Honored Member of the Heritage Registry of Who's Who 2007–2008 Edition.

On June 30, 2007 Jackie Wilson will retire and spend time with her five grandchildren. Through her hard work and dedication she has been a great example for the community of Douglas, Georgia.

JOHN ISNER—TENNIS GREAT  
FROM GREENSBORO

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, it is well known that Greensboro, NC, has produced some fine tennis players. Some around Capitol Hill, for example, might be acquainted with my sometimes adequate "old man's game of tennis." That being acknowledged, I can safely say that I am glad to have never faced the overpowering serve of John Isner, Greensboro's own collegiate tennis champion. Even on my best day on the court, I think I might have a tough time returning one of his 130 mile-per-hour rockets.

John, hailing from Greensboro's Page High School, helped lead the 2007 NCAA Champion University of Georgia Men's Tennis team as a senior while playing in the number one singles position. Just this week, John and his teammates were lauded by President Bush at the White House.

John's personal accomplishments this season were also extraordinary. He entered the NCAA individual singles championship as the number one ranked college player in the nation, before losing the finals in three sets. Over the course of this spectacular season, he also set the University of Georgia record for career singles victories at 143. While his career tournament victories are too numerous to list, I must mention that he won the NCAA doubles championship as a sophomore.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to wish John the best of luck in the pro ranks. And I know that if we ever teamed up for a doubles match, it is safe to say that we would be unbeatable.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHIL-  
DREN'S MERCURY EXPOSURE  
ACT OF 2007

### HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Children's Mercury Expo-

sure Act of 2007" along with my colleague, Representative ROBERT E. ANDREWS. This necessary and important piece of legislation will establish a program of research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding the risks posed by all levels of exposure of children to mercury from mercury contaminated industrial sites; require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), working in coordination with state departments of health, to conduct a study on the prevalence of the exposure of children to mercury from mercury contaminated industrial sites and present to Congress a preliminary report of the prevalence of such occurrences 1 year from the date of enactment; and provide block grants through CDC to state departments of health to conduct initial and long-term testing of children exposed to mercury from mercury-contaminated industrial sites.

I introduce this legislation today as a direct result of an incident that occurred last summer in my Congressional District. Last July, to my amazement and disbelief, I learned that a day care center in Franklin Township, New Jersey had been opened mistakenly on a site that was previously used by a thermometer manufacturer with a history of mercury contamination and had not been properly cleaned up. As a result of this, children who innocently played on the grounds and slept on the floors of the day care were diagnosed with mercury contamination.

I worked with the CDC and state agencies to ensure that these children received the testing and care they needed and deserved, but there were many questions that could not be answered about the risks to these children and children like them who were exposed to mercury, nor were answers about whether similar incidents of mercury exposure in children were occurring in communities across the country.

The answers I did find out though were alarming. I learned that mercury, a potent neurotoxin that can affect the nervous system, lungs, brain, and kidneys, is present at a number of contaminated industrial sites in the United States. I also learned that children's unique behaviors, such as soil ingestion from normal hand-to-mouth contact, puts them at particular risk of exposure from these mercury contaminated industrial sites, and that the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), has determined this risk has emerged as an important public health issue.

This incident has taught me that children can, and unfortunately will be exposed to mercury from contaminated industrial sites. The "Children's Mercury Exposure Act of 2007" attempts to ensure that children and parents have knowledge about the risks posed by this exposure; that the scope of this problem is determined; and that the appropriate level of testing and care is provided. I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in working to help those children who have been, and may be, exposed to mercury and to support the "Children's Mercury Exposure Act of 2007."

TRIBUTE TO FRANCE A. CORDOVA,  
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California, are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Chancellor France Córdova is one of these individuals. On Wednesday, June 27, 2007, Chancellor Córdova will be honored at a farewell dinner in her honor.

Chancellor Córdova began her dynamic career conducting anthropological field work in a Zapotec Indian pueblo in Oaxaca, Mexico, after graduating cum laude from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in English. She went on to obtain her Ph.D. in physics from the California Institute of Technology. For 10 years, Córdova worked as a staff member of the Space Astronomy and Astrophysics Group at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. In 1989, Córdova moved across the U.S. to serve as department head of astronomy and astrophysics at Pennsylvania State University. In 1993, Córdova accepted a position as the Chief Scientist at NASA which she held until 1996. In this role, she served as the primary scientific advisor to the NASA Administrator and the principal interface between NASA headquarters and the broader scientific community.

In 1996, Córdova returned to her home state of California to serve as professor of physics and vice-chancellor for research at UC Santa Barbara. In 2002, Chancellor Córdova accepted the position of chancellor at the University of California, Riverside and the university has undergone dramatic changes under her leadership. The campus itself has been augmented and improved with the addition of new state-of-the-art buildings and parking for students. Academically, Chancellor Córdova has worked towards bringing a school of medicine to UCR which is expected to become a reality in the near future.

Chancellor Córdova's tireless passion for education has contributed immensely to the betterment of the University of California, Riverside. Many students, community leaders and residents are thankful for her service and leadership. I am proud to call Chancellor Córdova a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many are grateful for her service and salute her as she moves to Indiana to lead Purdue University as their new chancellor.

HONORING CANYON MIDDLE  
SCHOOL OF CASTRO VALLEY

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty, and staff of Can-

yon Middle School in Castro Valley, California for its clear record of success. Canyon Middle School has now been named one of the top performing middle schools in the country.

Today through June 23 in Arlington, Virginia Canyon Middle School will be recognized with 55 other high-performing schools across the nation as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform at their annual conference.

The faculty and staff at Canyon Middle School have clearly set high standards for performance. They have made it their daily mission to be academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable. They challenge all of their students to use their minds, and as teachers and adult mentors to our young people, they are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence. As a whole, Canyon Middle School strives to provide every student, regardless of background or life obstacles, with high-quality teachers, resources, and a viable support system.

Canyon Middle School's accomplishments represent its dedication and commitment to bolstering the success of our youth early on in their academic careers, so that they may achieve successful and productive lives as individuals. The service that Canyon Middle School provides to its students, their families, and the Castro Valley community is undeniable.

I salute Castro Valley Middle School's students, faculty, and staff for their exemplary performance, and I thank them for their outstanding service to the 9th Congressional District and to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
KAREN HOLBROOK DURING HER  
TENURE AS THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

### HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is a distinct honor for the central Ohio delegation to rise today to commend the leadership and accomplishments of Karen Holbrook during her tenure as the President of the Ohio State University. Holbrook became Ohio State's 13th president in October 2002, and has served the University and the greater university community nobly for 5 years by guiding Ohio State towards ever-increasing prominence in research initiatives and funding, higher academic standards, and enhanced community partnerships.

Ohio State has steadily risen in national rankings of universities since 2002, climbing to 19th among the Nation's public universities in U.S. News and World Report's 2007 edition of "America's Best Colleges." Under Holbrook's watch, the quality of the student body has also increased dramatically. Fifty-two percent of Ohio State's incoming freshmen in the fall of 2007 are expected to be in the top 10 percent of their high school class and 90 percent will be in the top 25 percent. Average ACT scores have also increased. Thanks to better-prepared incoming students and a nationally recognized First-Year Experience program, freshman-sophomore retention has risen to 91.5

percent, well above the average among similar universities.

The completion of the South Campus Gateway project, a mixed-use development of retail, entertainment, offices and housing, has revitalized the edge of campus through the Campus Partners initiative. These improvements have enhanced student life, revitalized an urban neighborhood and provided high-quality destinations for the campus community and visitors alike.

With annual research expenditures now at \$652 million a year, Ohio State is ranked 8th among public research universities in the Nation by the National Science Foundation based on the amount of sponsored research. Also, the University has risen from 5th to 3rd among public universities in industry-sponsored research. Holbrook presided over the creation of the Undergraduate Research Office to encourage and enable undergraduate students to connect to research projects as part of their educational experience. As a result, more than 300 students now participate in the annual Denman Undergraduate Forum.

Finally, Holbrook has led the University into strong partnerships in the community, especially with renowned research institute Battelle, which includes the Metro High School for students interested in science, technology, engineering and math, the Urban Arts Center, WOSU@COSI (a collaboration of the university's public media stations and the Center for Science and Industry), and the Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. These partnerships and initiatives are already bearing fruit, and their impact and importance will only increase down the road.

It is truly a pleasure to have worked with President Holbrook over the last 5 years and to have joined her in efforts that increased the prominence and reputation of a great institution. The Ohio State University is a better place because of Holbrook's leadership, and for that, all Buckeyes are forever in her debt.

Go Bucks! Beat Michigan!

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
KAREN HOLBROOK DURING HER  
TENURE AS THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

### HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, it is a distinct honor for the central Ohio delegation to rise today to commend the leadership and accomplishments of Karen Holbrook during her tenure as the president of the Ohio State University. Holbrook became Ohio State's 13th president in October, 2002, and has served the University and the greater university community nobly for 5 years by guiding Ohio State towards ever-increasing prominence in research initiatives and funding, higher academic standards, and enhanced community partnerships.

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#### INVEST IN EDUCATION, INVEST IN THE FUTURE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, forty years ago, the U.S. was number one in the world in high school graduation rates. Today it ranks 17th.

About 1/3 of the students who enter 9th grade each fall will not graduate from high school with 4 years, if at all now in 2007. High school students living in low-income families drop out of school at 6 times the rate of their peers from high income families. Dropout rates are especially high in communities of color: Only about 55 percent of African Amer-

ican students and 52 percent of Hispanic students graduate on time from high school with a regular diploma, compared to 78 percent of white students. In my hometown of Oakland, CA, the dropout rate for Black males is 74 percent.

In this country, there are about 2,000 high schools that produce the majority of dropouts. Six million students throughout America are currently at risk of dropping out of school. Students who fail to graduate from high school are more likely to participate in criminal activity than students who do graduate. Likewise, students with low levels of achievement in high school are more likely to engage in crime than students with high levels of achievement.

For example, the Harvard University Civil Rights Project and the Urban Institute Education Policy Center conducted a study on K-12 schools in California. The center estimated that Oakland's 52 percent dropout rate costs the state \$14 billion in lost wages, crime and jail time.

Investing in education would save millions of dollars in crime-related expenditures annually, not to mention ensuring a quality of life that young people deserve or America's standing in the world.

The statistics are staggering and tell the story. Approximately 75 percent of state prison inmates did not complete high school. High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested in their lifetimes. And a mere one percent increase in high school graduation rates would save approximately \$1.4 billion in costs associated with incarceration costs, or about \$2,100 for each male high school graduate.

We must do better by our children. Nothing less than the future of this country is at stake. That is why I am committed to effective reform that can transform high schools and keep students at the greatest risk of dropping out on the path to graduation.

I'm proud to support authorizing legislation that will soon be introduced which will help address some of the reforms that are needed and that is why I'm proud to be an advocate on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education subcommittee working to appropriate funding to address the crisis in dropouts that our country is facing. Clearly, we need increased investments in programs that keep kids in school and learning.

School counseling bill: On the Labor, Health and Human Services subcommittee, I worked with my colleagues to include \$61.5 million for elementary and secondary school counseling in the FY08 bill that is currently working its way through our committee. This is a 77.5 percent increase in a program that the President would have eliminated. These funds enable school districts to hire academic counselors, psychologists, and social workers. The additional resources will be targeted to improving and expanding academic and mental health counseling to middle and high school adolescents. This significant increase is a tremendous step toward addressing the crisis in counseling in our schools.

After School programs: Another critical tool we have in our arsenal to fight drop out and to keep kids off the street and for preventing youth violence is our nation's after school programs. The fact of the matter is that between 3-6 p.m. the rate of juvenile crime triples.

On LHHS subcommittee, we were able to provide a \$125 million increase over FY07 lev-

els for a total of over a billion dollars for the 21st century community learning centers. This program is a formula grant to states which in turn distribute 95 percent of the funds on a competitive basis to local school districts, community based organization and other organization for after school activities that make sure that young people have alternatives to getting into trouble.

UPWARD BOUND/Trio and Gear UP: I want to echo the comments of my colleagues here tonight about the problems we are fighting as it relates to the Absolute Priority regulation and the concerns over the loss of funding for numerous previously funded grantees including 30 percent of our HBCU's and Mills College in my district. I know that working together we will resolve these critical issues and I want to specifically thank BOBBY SCOTT and GWEN MOORE for their leadership on the Education committee and on this issue.

We all understand just how critical these programs that provide a variety of outreach and support services to encourage low-income students to enter an complete college. That is why I'm pleased our LHHS subcommittee was able to provide a \$40 million increase in funding for the TRIO programs and a \$20 million increase for the GEAR UP program.

It is time that our policy and funding priorities take a new direction for our children. That means investing in education. When we do that, we invest in our future.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KAREN HOLBROOK DURING HER TENURE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is a distinct honor for the central Ohio delegation to rise today to commend the leadership and accomplishments of Karen Holbrook during her tenure as the President of The Ohio State University. Holbrook became Ohio State's 13th president in October, 2002, and has served the University and the greater university community nobly for five years by guiding Ohio State towards ever-increasing prominence in research initiatives and funding, higher academic standards, and enhanced community partnerships.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY ACT OF 2007

#### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act (MMNTA) of 2007. This legislation is cosponsored by my friends and colleagues Representatives MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DE), DIANA DEGETTE (D-CO) and MARK KIRK (R-IL).

The MMNTA of 2007 authorizes Medicare to expand the use of medical nutrition therapy to treat any disease for which empirical research has shown clinical value. The American Dietetic Association has endorsed this important legislation.

In 2000, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences found that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the treatment and management of the following conditions: diabetes, heart failure, kidney failure, dyslipidemia (a total cholesterol condition as well as other abnormalities in blood lipid levels) and hypertension. In response to this study, Congress allowed Medicare to reimburse medical nutrition therapy for beneficiaries with diabetes and renal diseases.

Specifically, the benefit Congress added includes an initial assessment of a beneficiary's nutrition and lifestyle, nutrition counseling, information regarding managing lifestyle factors that affect diet and follow-up visits to monitor the beneficiary's progress. Medicare covers three hours of one-on-one counseling services the first year, and two hours each year after that. The benefit provides additional treatment hours when the beneficiary's condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes and a physician refers the beneficiary. A physician must prescribe these services and renew them yearly if continuing treatment is needed.

In 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report that reiterated that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the management and treatment of dyslipidemia (referred to as hyperlipidemia in the HHS report) and hypertension. This study's corroboration of IOM's earlier findings demonstrates that many Medicare beneficiaries who could benefit from this treatment cannot access it through Medicare.

Moreover, expanding the use of medical nutrition therapy has the potential to be a cost effective means of providing health care. Recently, the Pfizer Corporation piloted a 6-month nutrition and exercise intervention program for employees with hyperlipidemia. The study concluded that this intervention reduced Low-density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol 12 months later. And, the participating employees had their risk for heart disease reduced by 19 percent. The intervention could save an estimated \$728,722 annually if offered to the entire Pfizer population.

Unfortunately, the method that Congress established to determine eligibility for medical nutrition therapy is flawed. Congress specified in law which diseases should receive medical nutrition therapy instead of leaving that judgment to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as is the custom for other benefits provided by the program.

CMS has the experts and infrastructure to make these important decisions based on empirical research. As part of its administration of the Medicare program, CMS determines the items and services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury suffered by Medicare beneficiaries. CMS makes national coverage determinations by evaluating medical literature and data and information on the effectiveness and appropriateness of medical items and services that are being considered for Medicare coverage. During this process, the public has the opportunity to provide comments. In some cases, CMS' own research is supplemented by an outside assessment and/or consultation with a Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MedCAC). A MedCAC consists of outside experts who supplement CMS career staff examination of an issue. These committees examine the strength of available evidence and make recommendations to CMS on coverage decisions.

By passing this legislation, Congress would increase access to medical nutrition therapy to Medicare beneficiaries through a thoughtful and scientific approach. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have the appropriate access to medical nutrition therapy.

#### CONGRATULATING JIMMIE GOLDEN ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of Mr. Jimmie Golden. Mr. Golden is a highly-regarded figure and establishment in the "McDonald's Coffee" group, and his contributions to the group are immeasurable.

The McDonald's Coffee group meets every morning in Milton, a city in my district in Northwest Florida. It is there that a regular group meets to discuss news and current affairs, and Jimmie Golden is a consistent presence. Jimmie is not just there to listen, though—his knowledge in both domestic and foreign affairs is vast. His awareness of the events going on, how the past has affected these events, and the possible implications for the future is worldly by any standard. Those that listen to his input pay close attention as they know Jimmie puts a lot of thought and knowledge into what he says.

Jimmie Golden is not only a great contributor of knowledge and information; he is also a great listener. This listening is not just at the McDonald's Coffee group, either. Jimmie is someone always willing to help others, and he would bend over backwards to better the life of another. Calling Jimmie a humanitarian could be an understatement; he would help every single person if he could. In fact, his service in the United States Navy protecting the freedom our country enjoys accomplished that goal.

Madam Speaker, it is not often enough that a person of Jimmie Golden's caliber comes along, and I am grateful that he calls Northwest Florida home as we recognize and congratulate him on his 80th birthday. Our Nation is a better place because of people like Jimmie.

#### IN MEMORY OF ROY P. LEWSADER, JR.

#### HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor S. Sgt. Roy P. Lewsader, Jr. of Clinton, Indiana, who died on June 16, 2007. While fighting for our country in Afghanistan, a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle in Tarin Kowt.

Roy was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He joined the U.S. Army in 1988 and served until his death as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

To serve our country in the U.S. military is an honorable and noble profession. Roy's service to our country in life, as well as in death, epitomizes what it means to be an American hero.

During his more than 13 year service to our country, Roy distinguished himself as soldier and leader. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, as well as the Army Achievement Medal three times and the Army Commendation Award.



Roy Lewsader, Jr. gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and will be remembered as a hero, a father, and a husband. On behalf of all of the people of the 8th District, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Melissa; daughters, Briana, Ozzra'D, Cheyenne, and Keebee; son, Billy; and the rest of his family and friends who love and miss him today.

SENATOR BYRD'S HISTORIC 18,000th  
VOTE

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today is an historic date in the United States Congress, and for my State of West Virginia. Today, our State's senior Senator—the senior Senator of all Senior Senators—and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, ROBERT C. BYRD, has just cast his 18,000th vote.

On April 30, 1990, Senator BYRD cast his 12,134th vote, surpassing Senator William Proxmire, the previous record holder.

Now, he has cast 18,000 votes. Talk about a record. They say records are made to be broken. I will be very surprised if anyone ever breaks this one. It would take a Senator on super steroids!

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity, not only to congratulate my fellow West Virginian, and my mentor, but to say how proud the people of West Virginia are of him.

Senator BYRD was a virtual orphan boy raised by his aunt and coal-mining uncle in the hills of southern West Virginia. Through hard work, determination, a strong religious belief, an unrelenting drive to gain knowledge, and his belief that the United States is indeed the land of opportunity, he has climbed to the highest pinnacle of political success. He went from a coal miner's shack to the ornate Appropriations Committee Suite he now occupies in the U.S. Capitol. Unable to afford college after graduating from high school, he became the first person to begin and complete law school while serving in the United States Congress.

He has worked pumping gas and as a butcher in a local grocery store, and as a welder in the shipyards of Baltimore and Tampa during World War II. After the war, he owned and operated a grocery store in Sophia, West Virginia. These are unlikely jobs for someone with the kind of power our Senator has come to wield in Washington. But I believe they helped to mold the man in a way that I think would be of benefit to more of our leaders, and, in turn, to our nation. I think the world of politics would have a better reputation if more politicians lived the kind of hard-scrabble life that Senator BYRD endured in his younger days. Certainly, it would be better if more of us had a wonderful woman like his gracious Erma—his angel in heaven—by our sides, giving us counsel and encouragement.

Now Senator BYRD has cast more votes than any other U.S. Senator, and he has done so approaching each vote with depth of thought and breadth of experience.

He has held more Senate leadership positions than any other Senator, including two stints as the Senate Majority Leader. And, as I have already mentioned, he is the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

While he is the longest serving Senator in history, I am pleased to point out that on December 2, 2009, he will have served in the U.S. Congress for a total of 56 years, 10 months, and 29 days, making him the longest serving member of Congress in history. I am already preparing my remarks for that historic day.

HONORING MY MOTHER

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my personal heroes, my mother, Maria Sánchez, on her retirement yesterday after 30 years teaching in the classroom. I can honestly and proudly say that my mother is a true American success story.

An immigrant, she came to this country without knowing English, without much money in her pocket, and without a job waiting for her.

Her life's been hard, and we kids didn't make it any easier. But she and my father taught us to work hard, persevere, and play by the rules.

My mother raised seven children and sent them all to college. She is the only mother in U.S. history to send two daughters to Congress.

And she did this while going to night school to get her A.A., then her B.A., then a teaching credential and, ultimately, a master's degree. She cleaned houses in her "spare time," and found creative ways to make ends meet for a family of nine.

As an English/Spanish dual-immersion teacher, she helped children better express themselves and communicate with each other—shaping our community one student at a time.

Her teaching career may be ending, but she'll keep leading and touching lives. Mom, here's to you!

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-  
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIA-  
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, during times of crisis, the United States has always supported her friends. Egypt is our friend. Egypt is not only our friend, Egypt is our strategic partner, our peace partner and our military partner in the Middle East. It is shameful how we are treating our friend with the restrictions on military aid to Egypt in this bill. As

such, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment by Rep. ANTHONY WEINER removing \$200 million in military aid to Egypt, and in strong support of the amendment by Rep. CHARLES BOUSTANY allowing military support to continue to Egypt without conditions. Egypt and the United States have a valuable, key and strategic partnership, one that has been underscored by the recent developments in the Gaza Strip. It would be toxic to the relationship that the United States has with Egypt, and our relationship to those moderate Arab states in the Middle East, for this bill to be adopted with these restrictions.

In April of this year, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said that: "I have long considered Egypt one of America's most important, even indispensable, partners. . . Security challenges in the Middle East are significant, but can be overcome by Egypt and the United States working closely together in the region." Just last week, the world saw Hamas take over the Gaza Strip. Hundreds, if not thousands, of men, women, children, senior citizens, and the disabled are fleeing this region as refugees, many ending up in Egypt.

In response to this crisis, Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, has invited Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and Jordan's President King Abdullah II for a summit this Monday, June 25, 2007 in an effort to negotiate peace in this region. I commend to my colleagues the following portion of an article dated June 21, 2007 from the Associated Press that goes into more detail about the summit:

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK.—Closing ranks against Hamas, Egypt's president invited Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian leaders to a peace summit, officials said Thursday, the biggest show of support yet by moderate Arab states for beleaguered Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The meeting will take place Monday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, said Israeli government spokeswoman Miri Eisin. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has invited Abbas, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Jordan's King Abdullah II. Jordan confirmed Abdullah would attend.

Abbas will call for a resumption of peace talks with Israel, arguing that only progress toward Palestinian statehood can serve as a true buffer against Hamas, which took control of Gaza by force last week, Abbas aide Saeb Erekat said.

"The most important thing to realize is that time is of the essence," Erekat said. "We need to deliver the end of occupation, a Palestinian state. If we don't have hope, Hamas will export despair to the people."

As immediate steps, Abbas will ask Israel to remove West Bank checkpoints that disrupt daily life and trade, and to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars in Palestinian tax funds Israel froze after Hamas came to power last year.

Also on Thursday, Palestinian dual nationals and foreigners working in Gaza were allowed to pass through Israel for other points. About 60 Palestinian-Americans left Gaza for Jordan, and eight World Bank employees left the coastal strip, an Israeli army spokeswoman said.

Late Wednesday, 35 Gazans who had been stuck at the main Gaza-Israel passenger crossing for several days were sent to Egypt via Israel, the spokeswoman said. Among those who left were gunmen from Abbas' Fatah movement, their wives and children.

Hundreds of men, women and children rushed to the crossing after the Hamas takeover, among them Fatah loyalists who feared

they'd be harmed by Hamas, despite the militants' offer of amnesty. By Thursday, the passage, rank with the stench of urine and garbage, was nearly empty after it became clear that a mass exit to the West Bank was not approved.

Earlier Wednesday, Israel took in several of the sick and wounded in the crowd.

In Washington, Olmert said he would propose to his Cabinet on Sunday that it unlock frozen funds, though he did not say how much money he thought Israel should free. Israel is holding about \$550 million in tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinians.

Despite the talk about peace, however, the Hamas takeover has dealt a setback to statehood efforts, with the Islamic militants in charge of Gaza and Abbas in charge of the West Bank."

This Amendment is even opposed by the President. In a statement of White House policy, the Office on Management and Budget says:

"The Administration opposes the prohibition on a portion of the foreign military financing to Egypt contained in section 699. Military assistance is critical to our strategic partnership with Egypt and has contributed to a broad range of U.S. objectives in the region. Such a restriction will undermine the U.S. relationship with Egypt and send the wrong message to this important ally in the region."

As a former Member of this subcommittee, I personally appreciate the challenges that Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Minority Member WOLF not only face, but surpass. This bill provides significant funding increases for many programs that I have, and will continue to, support.

My objection is to Section 699 of the bill, a new provision, which sets conditions on \$200 million of the \$1.3 billion in military assistance to Egypt. This assistance is pending certification of the Secretary of State that Egypt is taking steps toward enactment of a new judicial law, including the principal components of the law and separation of the budget of the judiciary from that of the Ministry of Justice; steps to review criminal procedures and mass demonstrations by Egypt's police force; and steps to detect and destroy the smuggling network into the Gaza strip.

The Thirteenth Congressional District of Michigan contains one of the highest concentrations of Arabs in the United States. These tax-paying, hard-working Americans demand that the United States respect not just their homeland, but the past, present and future effort that Egypt has made manifest over the years as a strategic partner and toward peace. To remove this key support from Egypt, at this point, would signal an unnecessary reticence by the United States toward one of the few allies we have in the Middle East.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support Egypt, to support peace in the Middle East, and to support the amendment offered by my colleague from Louisiana, Congressman BOUSTANY and oppose the amendment offered by my colleague from New York, Congressman WEINER.

## HONORING FRED S. PYLE

### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, today at Arlington National Cemetery, my constituent and friend Fred Pyle of Ormond Beach, Florida was laid to rest. It was my honor to have had the opportunity to know Fred and his family. His service to our country through our Armed Forces and law enforcement is a shining example of American patriotism.

The son of Martin and Mae Emma Pyle, he was born in Somerset, Pennsylvania on April 17, 1920.

Fred was one of six sons, five of whom served in the United States military during World War II and were recognized as being the first family of five brothers to serve our Nation's armed services in that conflict. He first entered into the service in 1938 joining the National Guard in his hometown of Somerset. He was later selected to serve as an MP and saw combat with the 726th Police Battalion in World War II during what was known as the "Red Ball Express," when Allied Forces landed at Normandy and began their push towards Germany. His service later took him to Okinawa, Japan where his responsibilities included the overseeing of Japanese Prisoners of War. In addition to his service in World War II, Fred served in the Korean War and at the prestigious Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he served as Chief Master of Arms.

Fred achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and was a recipient of several prestigious awards including the Victory Medal of World War II, American Theatre Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He was also recalled during the Korean conflict where he honorably served as an instructor in a NCO academy and earned himself the Occupational Medal (Germany). He left the Army in 1952 with an honorable discharge.

After his service, Fred graduated from the Institute of Applied Science in Chicago and became a police officer with the Somerset Police Department where he worked for more than 10 years.

With the passing of Fred Pyle, America has lost an outstanding citizen and a shining example of a family's commitment and service to our Nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community and a compassionate husband and a loving father. To his wife of 67 years, Stella, his son Bruce, his three grandchildren and one great-grandson, in addition to his loving family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Fred Pyle's contributions and to ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 110th Congress to join me in remembering a great American hero.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed everything about our college admissions process. Led by the late Representatives Patsy T. Mink and Edith Green, Congress established a principle we often take for granted today—the prohibition of gender discrimination in any federally funded educational program. The effects of the law have been substantial.

In 1972, only 42 percent of Bachelors of Arts degrees were earned by women; by 2004 that number rose to 57 percent. Only 9 percent of medical degrees were awarded to women; now it's above 45 percent. Not surprisingly, law degrees were the most imbalanced. In 1972, only 7 percent of law degrees were held by women and by 2004 almost 50 percent went to women. Only 15 percent of PhD's went to women before title IX and that number is now close to 50 percent.

This progress is worth celebrating but we have plenty more to do. Title IX has as much utility now as it did in 1972. Women continue to face substantial barriers, especially in high wage fields such as science, technology, engineering and math. Sexual harassment remains pervasive in schools and on college campuses. Women and girls' sports teams still do not receive an equal share of resources.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS ACT OF 2007

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing very important bipartisan legislation that I hope will resolve the question of whether or not there is a link between the increased incidence of autism and the use of thimerosal in vaccines. Many parents have raised concerns about the effect that thimerosal, which is made of mercury—a known neurotoxin that is widely used as a preservative in vaccines—may have had on a child's chances of developing autism and other neurological disorders. The study mandated by this new legislation would try to help resolve this controversy once and for all. While vaccines have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of many once-common diseases, we owe it to parents and children to study and resolve the question of the possible link between thimerosal in vaccines and autism. What is ultimately needed to resolve this issue one way or the other is a comprehensive national study comparing outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated children.

As the most scientifically advanced country in the world, we should be jumping at the chance to conduct a comprehensive national study and ensure absolute trust in our Nation's vaccine program. Parents deserve answers, and children deserve no less than absolute certainty and safety, which is why I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today.

# RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 155, which recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expresses the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

June 19th also known as Juneteenth, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond, yet it is still not a nationally recognized holiday.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Representative Edwards has since actively sought to spread the observance of Juneteenth all across America.

Today, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom. This special day emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

The Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's, who wore Juneteenth freedom buttons.

Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through the Poor People's March to Washington, DC, Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to

come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many of these attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. In fact, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations founded after this march are now held in Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

Throughout the 80's and 90's Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have risen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten. The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states come on board and form local committees and organizations to coordinate the activities.

Now in 2007, I push forward with the hope that my colleagues will remember with compassion the African American citizens who helped build this country, but were still held in illegal bondage due to the hatred, bigotry and cruelty of others. I ask that my colleagues help support this resolution and its efforts in making Juneteenth a nationally recognized holiday.

# RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 155. This resolution recognizes Juneteenth's significance in crafting a rich African American legacy. Juneteenth, also known as Freedom or Emancipation Day, is an informal observance in fourteen states in the United States. It marked the beginning of a new phase in African-American history, when emancipated slaves along with their former owners began, slowly and haltingly, to travel the long road to equality and integration.

Celebrated on June 19th, Juneteenth is the name given to emancipation day by African Americans in Texas. On that day in 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order #3, officially proclaiming freedom for slaves in that state. Granger's ride through Galveston culminated a two-and-a-half-year trek through America's deep south to liberate the enslaved.

Juneteenth is an expression and extension of American freedom, and like the Fourth of July, is a time for all Americans to celebrate our independence, human rights, civil rights and freedom. It is an occasion where time, history and culture conspire to celebrate such a symbolic event.

The celebration of June 19th as emancipation day spread from Texas to the neigh-

boring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. It has also appeared in Alabama, Florida, and California as African American Texans migrated to those regions. Juneteenth's commemoration did not only extend its geographic reach but it also embraced participants from all political and civic segments of the black community.

Unfortunately, my home state does not officially recognize Juneteenth but has an unofficial commemoration on May 20th in the capital, Tallahassee. Even as we acknowledge the evils of slavery and the ravages it wrought upon our society while paying tribute to those who suffered with no recompense, Juneteenth challenges us to strengthen our bonds of unity and to offer support to one another.

Even more importantly, Juneteenth does not polarize black and white Americans. Rather, it has become an annual cultural observance primarily devoted to civic affairs because it encourages us to be sensitive to others' conditions and experiences, so that we can make significant and lasting improvements in our society. Like the African Sankofa, we must acknowledge and honor our past. But we must always fervently forge to solidify a hopeful future.

Regrettably, the African American community continues to confront many challenges in mitigating and eventually eliminating institutional racism. Emancipation did not bring equality. We still live in a society plagued by prejudices and stereotypes. I find it unfathomable that such a momentous occasion is seldom acknowledged, much less celebrated. We must not let our past dictate our present. After all, we owe it to the thousands of lives that were mercilessly destroyed by an elitist society designed to subject and suppress them. Let us take the initiative to finally tend to a gashing wound that has crippled the African American community. Let us honor our ancestors and build a future noteworthy of their legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth is a significant event that addresses the paradoxical race relations in our nation! It recognizes the impediments faced by the black community yet continues to inspire us to strive for an egalitarian society. We should set precedence on addressing past atrocities and present disparities so that we can truly embody democracy. I am honored to support this resolution.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber late last night. Had I been present for the seven rollcall votes that were taken on amendments to H.R. 2764, the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 535, "no" on rollcall No. 536, "no" on rollcall No. 537, "no" on rollcall No. 538, "no" on rollcall No. 539, "yes" on rollcall No. 540, and "no" on rollcall No. 541.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 536. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to the McGovern of Massachusetts Amendment.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 553, H. Amdt. 367 offered by Representative LOWEY to H.R. 2764, the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-  
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIA-  
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the McGovern-Lewis amendment. It is time to close the School of the Americas, or WHINSEC. After so many decades of human rights abuses and threats to democracy, the U.S. should not be giving a privileged position to Latin American militaries by maintaining a special school in the United States just for them. Nearly every month in Latin America, a perpetrator of human rights crimes, corruption, or drug-trafficking is found to have attended the School of the Americas. There's a reason that the SOA has been called the "School of the Atrocities."

WHINSEC, as well as current U.S. foreign policies, are making the United States lose ground with the people of Latin America. Our relations with Latin America are at their lowest ebb in several decades. The Abu Ghraib scandal, the doctrine of preemptive war, secret prisons and the debate over detentions in Guantanamo Bay are reported widely and critically in Latin American media. I have traveled to Latin America and seen for myself that the WHINSEC, as the direct heir of the School of the Americas, is viewed throughout Latin America as a symbol of the U.S. priority of strengthening brutal military regimes instead of encouraging development.

Suspending part of the aid to the WHINSEC would show that the United States wants to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. Such a move would be a significant and positive step forward in repairing our damaged image and credibility. It would also be a blow to those who have strengthened themselves politically by accusing the United States of hypocrisy on human rights and democracy. A more cooperative, less unilateral foreign policy, including the suspension of funding for WHINSEC, will clearly demonstrate our respect for international human rights standards and would help the United States regain influence and build connections in Latin America.

The United States should work with Latin American nations on common solutions to common problems, and our programs should invest in helping Latin American communities help themselves. Instead of providing funds to train human rights abusers, we should provide assistance for clean water, vaccinations for children, micro-credit, technical assistance for small farmers and small business, shelter for refugees and generous disaster relief to build goodwill with our neighbors.

Just last month Nobel Peace Prize Recipient Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica, announced that Costa Rica would no longer send its police to the WHINSEC for training. We should join Costa Rica (and other Latin American countries who have withdrawn their police from training at WHINSEC) in changing course by withdrawing funding from this criminal training ground.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL  
ROGER P. LEMPKE

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise in honor of Major General Roger P. Lempke, the Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard since December of 2000. Earlier this morning, General Lempke announced his retirement. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with General Lempke for a number of years. He is a true Nebraskan and the very definition of a great American.

A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, General Lempke became a pilot and flew more than 1600 flying hours primarily as an instructor pilot. He has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, and the Nebraska National Guard National Defense Service Medal among many other awards and decorations throughout his years of service to our country.

General Lempke served all of Nebraska and the people of the United States as Commandant of the State's military forces, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and as President of the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

Time and time again, our State has needed his leadership when faced with a natural disaster and time and time again, General Lempke has risen to the occasion. He has served his country with dedication and honor during a time of war. The Nebraska National Guard and the United States Armed Forces

have been made better through the tireless efforts of General Lempke, and I thank him for his service.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 535. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the Boustany of Louisiana amendment.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS  
PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2397, to reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

I would first begin by applauding my esteemed colleague from Oklahoma, Congresswoman MARY FALLIN, for her work on, and undertaking of this important piece of legislation. The SBA Women's Business Programs Act of 2007 will help to restore the goal of the Federal Government to award grants to Women's Business Centers, originally operating as a non-profit organizations in conjunction with institutions of higher learning. This bill will also restore the balance of funding between new and existing Women's Business Centers, originally envisioned at the start of the program.

Women Business Centers (WBCs) are community-based projects that are funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration through grants that require matching funds. They provide long-term business skills training, counseling, and mentoring to benefit emerging and existing small businesses that are owned and controlled by women, especially those who are socially or economically disadvantaged. Its goal is to continually ensure that those WBC's that are indeed serving an unmet need in their underserved communities remain sustained. They also work to provide valuable technical assistance to women entrepreneurs.

The SBA's Women's Business Programs Act of 2007 authorizes the National Women's Business Council to conduct annual studies on problems hindering the success of women entrepreneurs and to submit reports to the President and the House and Senate Small Business committees. By offering a three-tiered system of funding and lower caps on spending for older business centers, SBA hopes to make certain that a balanced percentage of the funding is used to support both new and existing business centers. This system will offer assistance to newly established centers, while slowly reducing the older centers dependency on federal grant funds.

Grants awarded to these business centers in their first 5 years were awarded with the intention that after this 5-year period had ended,

the center would be financially self-sustaining. These grants were not intended to be a source of permanent funding. With that said, one of the main objectives of the SBA has been to provide direction and resources to those desiring to start and expand their small business firms.

As once stated by the House Small Business Committee Chairwoman NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, "today's small business owners are leading the way when it comes to job creation and economic development in communities nationwide. [H.R. 2397] will ensure that the needs of the drivers of our economy—small businesses—are met." This legislation dedicates resources to strengthen centers and ensure stability in the program.

I rise today to support, as well as to encourage my other colleagues to join Representative FALLIN and myself in helping to increase the effectiveness of Women's Business Centers nationwide by supporting the SBA Women's Programs Act of 2007, H.R. 2397. I thank you once again, Representative FALLIN, for introducing this important piece of legislation. I am looking forward to witnessing the tremendous effects and positive results that this bill has to offer.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 148 which declares June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month. I am honored to be a cosponsor of this bill because it recognizes the contributions of Caribbean Americans to the social, economic and cultural landscape to the United States of America. The West Indies represents a diverse melting pot with each island bringing its own unique enriching element to this country's background. With approximately 34 million people and 16 independent nations sharing an African ethnic heritage, the Caribbean is a cosmopolitan region.

Some may wonder, what are we really celebrating during Caribbean Heritage Month? What makes these dynamic groups of people so distinct? Since the 17th century, West Indian slaves were shipped to the Americas. The Caribbean region continued to suffer slavery's wrath long after its abolition. Colonialism continued to strangle the region's independence, creating fragmented and dependent economies. However, in just over 40 years of independence, the region has established democratic governments and strengthened ties with the United States. Despite extenuating circumstances, these former colonies are now rising states which continue to infuse American mainstream culture.

According to the 2005 American Community Survey, some 2.2 million American residents have a West Indian background. Moreover, approximately 32 percent of the Caribbean-American population is currently enrolled in college or graduate school, and 33 percent of the West Indian population is employed in

educational, health care, and social services. In my home state of Florida, there is an estimated 649,000 Caribbean Americans. Approximately 30 percent of this population is currently enrolled in college or graduate school and 25 percent are employed in educational, health care, and social services.

Large, dynamic and remarkable communities with Caribbean ancestry exhibit this diversity in Florida's 23rd Congressional District. I am so privileged to represent people of virtually every single Caribbean heritage. From Lauderdale to Miramar to West Palm Beach to Oakland Park, I am honored to work on behalf of all of these communities and many more. There are approximately 153,000 Caribbean Americans currently residing in Florida's 23rd District. The Haitian community is one of the largest in the United States. In Broward County, Puerto Ricans comprise the largest Caribbean group at more than 50,000.

Furthermore, the second largest concentration of Cubans in the United States is in Broward County, with approximately 50,000 Cuban-American residents. Palm Beach County has the sixth largest concentration of Cuban-American residents in the United States, with more than 25,000 Cuban-American residents. Moreover, about 25,000 Palm Beach County residents are of Puerto Rican descent, and more than 7,500 are of Dominican descent.

Mr. Speaker, the National Caribbean American Heritage Month's declaration attests to the United States' reception to Caribbean influence in our country's history and its present socio-economic structure. Undeniably, the educational, political, and artistic influences of Caribbean Americans continue to permeate several facets of our society. The American spirit is a tapestry that weaves cultures together, one in which people of all traditions and walks of life convene to better protect and educate one another. The Caribbean-American people are an invaluable part of this tapestry.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in arriving to the chamber for the series of five recorded votes taken during the evening of Tuesday, June 12, 2007, on amendments to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2008. I was therefore unable to cast my vote during the first vote in that series which was on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York, Mr. CROWLEY. Had I been able to record my vote on this amendment, rollcall No. 453, I would have voted "no".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during

rollcall vote No. 537. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the Jordan of Ohio Amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 554, H. Amdt. 368 offered by Representative SMITH to H.R. 2764, the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the realignment of funding for Colombia in the FY2008 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. I would like to begin by thanking Chairwoman LOWEY for her leadership on the issues facing Colombia and for crafting such a forward-thinking piece of legislation.

I visited Colombia a few years ago, and learned so much about that beautiful country. On that trip I heard chilling accounts of the tragedy that our policies have created. A lot has changed since my trip, but many of the fundamental problems still exist, and in some cases, have worsened.

I heartily support the new balance of aid in the FY2008 Foreign Operations bill. As outlined in the bill, now 55 percent of aid for Colombia will go toward military functions while 45 percent will go to rural development, social development, and strengthening the judicial system. This new approach is a dramatic change that will help remedy the problems that our policies have caused.

Just this month, the Office of National Drug Control Policy announced that more than 387,900 acres of coca were detected in Colombia in 2006, an increase of 32,120 acres from the previous year. The increase in coca production is a huge blow to the proponents of Plan Colombia, which was created in 2000 to reduce drug cultivation.

This Foreign Ops bill recognizes the failure of past policies—especially our counter-drug initiatives, and moves U.S. policy in the right direction. The funding in this bill will help families persecuted by paramilitaries, farmers struggling to grow crops other than coca,

those displaced by fighting, and the Colombian justice system, which is valiantly struggling to bring justice to victims of violence.

Thank you, once again to Chairwoman LOWEY. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO NICK FRANKOS

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community of Warren, Ohio, who recently passed away. There is a well-known saying which maintains that, 100 years from now, it will not matter what kind of car a person drove or how big their bank account was. The saying affirms that in 100 years, the world may be a better place because of what one person did to help inspire and uplift a child. Very few people in the town of Warren, Ohio, had as profound an impact on so many young lives as Nick Frankos did. A 1943 graduate of Warren G. Harding High School, Frankos was an avid supporter of Warren City Schools and their affiliated athletic teams. Affectionately dubbed "Uncle Nick," he had a paternal, compassionate quality that allowed him to form lifelong bonds with Warren student-athletes and to transform the lives of many of Warren's youth.

In 1956, Frankos opened his much-claimed Buena Vista Restaurant, famous around town for serving "Uncle Nick's Greek Fried Chicken." Not only did the restaurant provide delicious meals, but it also served as a popular hangout for local student athletes, coaches, and fans. There were few, if any, high school football coaches who did not frequent the restaurant and who did not know Frankos on a first-name basis. Last year, Frankos was honored by the Warren City Council for 50 years of business excellence in the town.

In addition to his business endeavors, Frankos also served on the Warren City School Board for 12 years. Frankos was notable for his strong support of high school athletics and for his determination to provide local youth with proper athletic facilities. In particular, Frankos was instrumental in securing support for the construction of a new press box at Warren's Mollenkopf Stadium and for the replacement of part of the stadium's seating area. These improvements serve as a remembrance of the staunch support Frankos gave to Warren high school athletics throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, when "Uncle Nick" Frankos passed away on May 22 at the age of 82, the community of Warren, Ohio lost more than just a businessman. Many local athletes, coaches, and fans lost a friend. The Warren School Board lost a tireless advocate, and the city of Warren lost a dedicated and caring public servant. Most importantly, the area's youth lost a devoted mentor and role model. It is for his contribution to the youth of Warren, Ohio that "Uncle Nick" Frankos should be remembered.

#### SENATOR BYRD'S 18,000TH VOTE

#### HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD stood in the Senate chamber to do his duty. It was not to deliver a persuasive and enlightening speech featuring laser-focused common sense on the issue at hand. It was not to educate his colleagues on tradition and precedent as the Senate's most prolific historian. And, it was not to politely and eloquently offer an opposing opinion to another Senator's statement. It was to perform what he considers one of his most sacred duties—to cast his vote as a representative of the people.

It was not just any vote, Speaker. It was the 18,000th time that Senator BYRD responded to his duty and it was a monumental moment in the history of the Senate. No other Senator has performed that honored duty as often as the gentleman from West Virginia. He has voted nearly 3,000 more times than the next individual on the list of distinguished public servants who have cast votes in the Senate. He is, truly, the iron man of the United States Senate.

West Virginians love Senator BYRD for many reasons. He has been an avid and effective defender of and advocate for his state; an articulate representative of their views on pressing national issues; and a champion facilitator of federal assistance for thousands of important projects that make peoples' lives better. But, they also love him because of what his never-to-be-matched Senate voting record really represents—an unflinching devotion to the responsibility they have entrusted him to perform.

I have had the honor of watching Senator BYRD for most of my life. He and my father came to Washington together as freshmen members of the House in 1952. Seldom have I ever seen a public servant work so hard to honor the responsibility entrusted to him by his people and the obligation imposed upon him by the United States Constitution.

The range of topics covered by those 18,000 votes must be staggering from the critical to the mundane. But they all received equal attention from Senator BYRD as a sacred duty.

He once wrote that Senators have an obligation to this great Nation to see that the powers of democracy are used effectively to settle important issues. Democracy, he has reasoned, requires us to work together.

He wrote: "Neither presidents nor Congress can act by fiat, but must work together, each keeping a firm eye on the other branch, and each jealously guarding its own prerogatives. At the same time, we are all judged by the American people who elect us. I have frequently said that I have full faith in the restorative powers of our democracy. What is unchecked will be balanced. What is wrong will be righted in time by our open and democratic system of government. So it has been for the first 200 years in the history of the United States Senate, and so it will be in the future."

Madam Speaker, Senator BYRD has expressed his faith in our democracy 18,000 times. Today I humbly honor Senator BYRD not just for casting those 18,000 votes as an

avid practitioner of democracy. I honor him for his faith in America, in people and in the form of government crafted by the framers of our Constitution.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 257, which puts the Congress on record in support of the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, for introducing this important resolution.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most serious of cancers, it is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States; and is the fifth leading cause of cancer death worldwide. It is responsible for 90 percent of deaths for those who develop the disease.

The incidence of pancreatic cancer is 50–90 percent higher in African Americans than in any other racial group in the United States. Not only is pancreatic cancer more common among African Americans, but African Americans also have the poorest prognosis of any racial group because they often are diagnosed with advanced, and therefore, inoperable cancer. African Americans also are less likely to receive surgery than any other racial group in the United States. Many studies have been conducted to determine why there is an increased risk of pancreatic cancer among African Americans. These studies suggest that environmental and socioeconomic factors may be important. Other risk factors for pancreatic cancer that are more common in African Americans include diabetes mellitus and being overweight.

It is heartbreaking to see people of "minority" status suffering from pancreatic cancer. It is a very deadly disease, but not common enough for everyone to be screened for it. The symptoms are vague and non-descript usually until the disease is so advanced there is little that can be done. We know that cancer can be deadly, but early detection is crucial. We also know how tragic the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer can be because of its rapid decline in the individual that has this particular disease.

I know firsthand from a prominent citizen in my community, someone who was vibrant and contributing, who suffered through the disease of pancreatic cancer, having good days and bad days, having recoveries and then relapses.

So I believe it is extremely important that we support the goals and the ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. The deadliness of this particular form of cancer goes far beyond the average citizen's comprehension. That is why education and awareness is crucial, and a month of Pancreatic Awareness is a good start to the educational process about the disease and the people who have it.

For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 538. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the Price of Georgia amendment.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS, PARENTS,  
TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS  
OF THE WAKE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

**HON. BRAD MILLER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, parents, teachers and administrators of the Wake County Public School System, many of whom are in Washington today to accept the National Energy Development Project's "School District of the Year" award.

The National Energy Development Project, or "NEED," is a nonprofit education association dedicated to advancing the understanding of the scientific, economic, and environmental impact of energy. This year, after reviewing more than sixty submissions from across the Nation, the NEED National Award's Review Panel chose to recognize Wake County's public schools for their unique and outstanding work.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of the students and faculty of the Wake County Public School System. Energy independence and combating global warming are two of the most important and challenging issues confronting our Nation. In the coming years, the goals we set and the choices we make in this area will have profound, irreversible consequences for our Nation and our planet.

More than ever before, America needs informed, innovative and energy-conscious leaders at every level of society. I congratulate the Wake County Public School System for rising to this challenge so impressively, and I commend them, and all the public school systems that participated in this program, for their commitment to this ideal.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 499: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2563.

(2) Rollcall No. 500: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res. 151.

(3) Rollcall No. 501: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 233.

## TRIBUTE TO PETER RENDINA, JR.

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a man I am proud to represent in Congress and prouder still to call a close personal friend and trusted advisor, Mr. Peter Rendina, Jr. Pete is being recognized on Friday, June 22, by his colleagues, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Paterson Public Schools.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of dedication and commitment to the students of our great city. Through his years of teaching history and social studies especially, he has shown countless students the magnificence and power of our great Nation and democracy in action.

Pete is a lifelong resident of Paterson. He is a graduate of School 18 and an Eastside High School Ghost. After graduation, Pete went on to continue his education at Jersey City State University, earning his degree in elementary education, working as a substitute teacher in the Paterson school system while continuing on his studies. After graduation, he became a full-time member of the Paterson Board of Education team. Since then, he has worked with many different grade levels, and taught a variety of courses. In the following years, Pete returned to Jersey City State, earning his Masters degree in Urban Education, Administration and Supervision. Soon he was serving as an adjunct professor, first at Upsala College and Passaic County Community College (PCCC), and later at Seton Hall University as well.

He has circumvented the educational bureaucracy that constricts many teachers and earned the admiration and trust of his pupils. The respect he has earned from his students is unprecedented and unmatched. He serves not only as an educator but also as a mentor; he helps his students to handle not only the academic rigors of high school, but also the many other challenges they face.

All the while, Pete has been living the lessons he teaches. His students learn about our government from someone who works in the field directly. Whether it was the 2 years he spent working as Congressman Herb Klein's district administrator, or the many years since that he has served as a special aide to me, he has been involved in the day to day affairs of our great government. His students have the benefit of learning civics from a teacher who works in the field and lives it first hand.

In addition to his work in the classroom, he has made his mark as a coach and athletic director. Pete has coached softball, basketball, football, track and volleyball on the high school level. On the collegiate level, he has led the men's basketball teams at both PCCC and William Paterson College, and served as the athletic director at PCCC. His talent for motivating his athletes to perform to the best of their ability and reach their goals makes him a successful coach. Just as when he is in the classroom, his mentoring skills with his players enable them to succeed on and off the field.

Outside of his profession, Pete has contributed greatly to the Passaic County community

in a civic role. He has served as the president of the Passaic County Technical and Vocational High School Board of Education, as a member of the board of trustees of the PCCC Foundation, and as commissioner of the Passaic County Board of Social Services.

His contributions to education, in Paterson and beyond, cannot possibly all be listed. Most importantly, he is a personality who, in every sense, cannot be replaced. I value his friendship and know that although he is retiring from teaching, his service to his community will continue.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of educators like Peter Rendina. I applaud the Eastside High School family for honoring Pete, and join them in wishing him a fantastic retirement.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Eastside High School Ghost family, the Paterson Board of Education, Pete's family and friends, all those whose lives have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of Mr. Peter Rendina, Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-  
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATION  
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment to close down the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. It is time to stop and examine our history so that we can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. Our relations with our neighbors in Latin America are at their lowest ebb ever. The people of Latin America think the U.S. is more concerned with achieving goals through military means no matter the consequences. They think the U.S. is not concerned with human and democratic rights in Latin America. We need to start winning over the citizens of our planet and show them our desire to bring human rights to everyone.

The time has come for our country to cease our support of this Institution, to put down the swords, and instead show our neighbors in Latin America that our actions adhere to our preaching. U.S. assistance has been increasingly weighted towards harsh and ineffective counter-narcotics and military aid.

After so many decades of human rights abuses and threats to democracy, why is the U.S. Government still giving so privileged a position to Latin American militaries, such that it maintains a special school in the United States just for them? Our neighbors need assistance for clean water, vaccinations for children, micro-credit, technical assistance for small farmers and small business, shelter for



refugees and generous disaster relief builds good will with our neighbors.

If we end this Institute once and for all, we will show that the priorities of the United States are with democratic and civil institutions. A more cooperative, less unilateral foreign policy that clearly demonstrates respect for international human rights standards would help the United States regain influence around the world.

It is time to sow the seeds of peace; we must stop sowing the seeds of war. As a great Nation and blessed people, we must heed the words of the spiritual—"I am going to lay my burden down, down by the riverside. I ain't gonna study war no more." We do not need this school. My colleagues, I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
JAMES "JIM" H. SHIMBERG

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to herald the life and philanthropic contributions of James "Jim" H. Shimberg, and to acknowledge our pride in the communities he founded in the Tampa Bay area.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Jim Shimberg served as a First Lieutenant in World War II. After he received his degree from the University of Chicago Law School, he practiced law in New York for nearly 10 years. Jim then relocated to the Tampa, Florida area in 1958 to launch a community business. By 1983, his development of over 6,000 homes, several recreation centers, schools, and shopping centers in northwest Hillsborough County laid the foundation of the Town 'N Country community.

Jim's success in community development led him to become President of the Tampa Home Builders Association and the Florida Home Builders Association, as well as Vice President of the National Association of Home Builders. He was co-founder of the National Housing Endowment and was inducted into the National Housing Hall of Fame in 1985. After developing the Town 'N Country community, Jim served as chairman for the Hillsborough County Charter Review Board and was largely responsible for the expansion and development of eastern Hillsborough County.

The philanthropic contributions of Jim Shimberg have unquestionably improved the lives of thousands of Floridians. His dedication to the well-being of Floridians led him to found the University Community Hospital in 1968. He served as the first Chairman of the Board for 9 years, and as chair of the investment committee for the duration of his life. His commitment to providing quality health care services led him to serve as Vice-President of the Judeo Christian Health Clinic for 25 years. In addition, Jim endowed the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Florida in 1991, and funded the philanthropic National Endowment in Washington, DC.

As a result of his immense lifetime philanthropic contributions, Jim Shimberg was honored as Tampa's Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 2007. He and his wife, Amy Shimberg,

were also honored as the 2003 Philanthropists of the Year by the Tampa Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The Tampa community honors the life of Jim Shimberg, his wife Amy, daughters Janet and Nancy, sons Jim, Richard, and Robert, and the entire Shimberg family for their outstanding contributions to the Florida community. Jim Shimberg's life serves as an inspiration to all who knew him, and will continue to benevolently impact the lives of Floridians in the future.

THE EXTENSIVELY DRUG RESISTANT-TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENT: A POORLY COORDINATED FEDERAL RESPONSE TO AN INCIDENT WITH HOMELAND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this very important hearing to discuss and investigate a possible breakdown in security procedures or the lack of adequate safety measures sufficient to safeguard against and minimize a potentially very serious public health security threat, namely the contraction of the extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). I would also like to take this time to welcome our witnesses, Dr. Martin S. Cetron, Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, and Mr. W. Ralph Basham, (accompanied by Jayson P. Ahern).

Mr. Chairman, 2 weeks ago, Mr. Andrew Speaker, an individual known to be infected with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) was subsequently confirmed to be infected with extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). He disregarded a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to seek medical treatment in Italy, and returned to the United States by altering his flight itinerary, flying to Canada, and then driving through the U.S.-Canada border. A number of homeland security and public health processes were utilized to manage the situation and failed at a variety of points.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide Members with the opportunity to (1) determine where weaknesses exist with homeland security processes designed to prevent entry into the U.S., (2) explore the inefficient interactions between the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) and the CDC when addressing public health security issues, and (3) identify areas for immediate and longer term improvement.

According to current U.S. public health policy, the CDC must be apprised when MDR-TB appears also to be extensively drug resistant so that the CDC can provide laboratory confirmation of XDR-TB. A very important question immediately comes to mind in Mr. Speaker's case: given the increasing incidence and prevalence of all types of TB, including MDR- and XDR-TB, should the CDC have been apprised sooner?

Mr. Chairman, in urgent matters such as preventing the spread of potentially serious and very harmful public health risks such as XDR-TB, time is most certainly of the es-

sence. In January, Andrew Speaker, a 31-year-old Atlanta lawyer, fell and hurt his ribs. He received an X-ray, revealing an abnormality in the upper lobe of his right lung. This suggested tuberculosis. Speaker began meeting regularly with Fulton County health officials for treatment. In early March, Speaker underwent a procedure to get a sample of sputum from his lungs. By the end of the month, lab cultures revealed he had tuberculosis (TB).

Though it is still unclear, it appears that the CDC was not notified of these events until May 17 when it was called in to test for XDR-TB. Health officials determined Speaker had a multiple-drug resistant (MDR) form of TB. According to press accounts, Fulton County health officials called the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) on May 10, but gave the impression that the problem was "largely hypothetical." The GDPH then made a call to the CDC. Some questions still persist and will hopefully be answered in this hearing. It is extremely important to know when the CDC was notified about Speaker's case of MDR-TB. It is also helpful for this Committee to know what the formal procedure by which the CDC was asked to perform its analysis. It is reported that the CDC was called in to test for XDR-TB on Thursday May 17. Was this the proper protocol to follow? If not, why wasn't the CDC asked to perform the analysis earlier?

Notifying the CDC of potential public health threats in a timely manner is also important because the sooner the CDC is notified the sooner public safety authorities can put measures in place to protect the public. Had the CDC been notified, the CDC may have been able to prevent Mr. Speaker from traveling and subjecting the public to potential risks of contracting XDR-TB.

As the Chairwoman of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, what I find even more alarming is the fact that the Transportation Security Administration was not notified until after the incident took place; after he had already posed a threat to the lives of hundreds of Americans and non-Americans. Had the TSA received forewarning, the identity of Mr. Andrew Speaker could have been disclosed in such a manner and he would have been placed on the "no-fly" list.

Mr. Speaker was simply given too many opportunities to create a public health crisis in this country and abroad. On May 12, Speaker departed Atlanta on Air France flight 385. Speaker arrived in Paris on May 13. On May 14, Speaker flew from Paris to Athens on Air France flight 1232. Speaker flew from Athens to Thira Island on Olympic Air flight 560 the following day. The CDC called in to test for XDR-TB. On May 17, the GDPH was notified that Speaker had flown overseas. Four days later, tests came back positive for XDR-TB. Meanwhile on that same day, Speaker flew from Mykonos to Athens on Olympic Air 655 and then he flew from Athens to Rome on Olympic Air 239.

Mr. Chairman, questions still persist about the ability of the Federal Government to quarantine an individual. DHS officials told Committee staff that Federal officials do not have the authority to quarantine. This is inaccurate. The President may issue an executive order for federal isolation and quarantine for the following communicable diseases: cholera, diphtheria, infectious tuberculosis, plague, smallpox, yellow fever, viral hemorrhagic fevers,

and SARS. What are the policies and procedures to implement a quarantine/isolation, and what is the role of DHS?

We must ensure that we provide public health security policies and guidelines that result in the highest level of precautions against public health threats. There is an old saying that it is better safe than sorry.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 539. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the Musgrave of Colorado amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICK SPARROW

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I come before you to honor Rick Sparrow for his decades of service to the 15th District of Illinois. Next fall will be the first time in over 30 years that Rick will not grace the basketball courts of East-Central Illinois. While the residents of Fisher, Illinois will always remember him as "Coach Sparrow," Rick actually began his basketball career as a youth referee. Due to his love of the game of basketball and his commitment to the children of Fisher, Rick spent nearly 12 years as an official, refereeing hundreds of games. Even with the demands of his job as a manager with FritoLay and responsibilities as a loving husband, father and grandfather, Rick then decided to make the move to the sidelines as a youth coach where he remained for the past 18 years.

Coach Sparrow will be remembered for his dedication, loyalty, passion and friendship. While he always pushed his players to the limit on the basketball court, he did so with respect, warmth and kindness. Rick treated every player as if he was his own child, and kept strong ties with his former players long after their playing careers were over. In fact, four of his twelve current warehouse employees at FritoLay are former Fisher Bunnies.

Rick's unheralded success as both an assistant and head coach is undoubtedly a product of the relationships he formed with each player he coached. In 1996, Coach Sparrow was named the IHSA Junior High District Coach of the year. In the 90's, he coached his junior high teams to six consecutive IESA state tournaments. And just this last year, Rick was a member of the coaching staff that led St. Joseph-Ogden High School to the sectional finals of the Illinois High School Association basketball tournament.

Now that the Coach has graced the sidelines for the last time, there will be more time to enjoy time and activities with his beloved wife, children and grandchildren. While he may not be in the gym next fall, the impact he has made on the Fisher community will continue for years to come.

Coach, the 15th District thanks you for your 30 years of service and your commitment to our community's student-athletes. You have enriched the lives of your players and their families.

IN HONOR OF RUBEN RAMOS, JR.

### HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor Hoboken City Councilman-at-Large Ruben Ramos, Jr. during Hoboken Cultural Week 2007. Ramos, Jr., who was born and raised in Hoboken, is the first Puerto Rican from, Hoboken to be nominated to the New Jersey State Assembly.

At age 25, Ramos, Jr. became the youngest councilman to be elected in the City of Hoboken in 1999, representing the 4th Ward. That same year, Ramos, Jr. was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. A proven fighter, Ramos, Jr. underwent rigorous chemotherapy treatment and was declared cancer free a year later, going on to become one of the most outstanding Hoboken citizens of Puerto Rican heritage.

Two years later, in 2001, Ramos, Jr. ran successfully for Councilman-at-Large, and became the youngest City Council President in the history of Hoboken. He was re-elected to the City Council in 2005.

During his 8 years serving on the Hoboken City Council, Ruben Ramos, Jr. has been able to work effectively with its members to bring effective development to the city and the waterfront. Ramos, Jr. took action to create more open space while expanding much needed residential parking spaces. Councilman Ramos, Jr. also helped clean up the Housing Authority and created the town's summer employment for teenagers program in city departments.

In the national arena, Ramos, Jr. was selected by Al Gore's 2000 election committee to serve on the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, where he delivered a stirring keynote speech. Ramos, Jr. was also chosen by the Democratic National Committee to serve on their credentials committee during the presidential campaign.

Councilman Ruben Ramos, Jr. is a graduate of Farleigh Dickinson University and has taught Social Studies to sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students for the last 10 years. Aware of their needs and hoping to shape the lives of young residents in the area, Ramos, Jr. has volunteered with the Hoboken Boy's and Girl's Club.

Please join me in honoring Ruben Ramos, Jr. during Hoboken Cultural Week and congratulating his wife Norma, his two beautiful daughters, and the Puerto Rican family members who helped shape the outstanding life of this young elected official that has become a role model for his fellow citizens.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey-Wolf amendment, which would prohibit funds in this bill from being used to designate any area as a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC).

By providing a 1-year time out in the designation of NIETCs, the amendment will force the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Congress, States and the public to reexamine the process for designating these areas to ensure that States' rights are upheld and people's personal property rights are protected.

Specifically, this amendment will postpone a flawed plan by the Department of Energy to designate two vast swaths of the country as NIETCs. Far from narrow "corridors," these massive areas encompass 214 counties and 9 cities in 11 states, including large areas in my home State of New York.

The way these areas have been designated has come under intense scrutiny, and for good reason. In a hearing in the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy earlier this year, it was made clear that the DOE did not adequately consult with the States on this issue and that the designations would actually hinder the States' efforts to address climate change. In addition, the congestion study which the proposed corridor designations are based on was fundamentally flawed. Last, the DOE simply failed to consider the appropriate alternatives to corridor designation.

At that hearing Paul D. Tonko, Chairman, Committee on Energy, New York State Assembly said, "There is little confidence, at this moment, that federal government officials—who are far removed from the physical and socio-economic location of local proposals—will be able to fully appreciate the environmental, economic and social impacts of long-range, high-voltage transmission lines in local communities."

I also want to note that Governor Eliot Spitzer of New York strongly supports the Hinchey amendment. He has made clear that the NIETC designation in New York is not only unnecessary, it would actually be counter-productive because if it is finalized, the FERC would be able to preempt parts of New York's long-established and efficient process for siting transmission lines.

Most appallingly, if we do not pass the Hinchey amendment, the FERC could eventually have the ability to give energy companies the power of Federal eminent domain to force private landowners to sell parts of their property. We just cannot allow States' rights to be trampled and private property rights to be taken away.

Yes, we absolutely need to make sure that there is an efficient process in place to meet the critical energy needs of my constituents in New York City and in other large urban areas. However, that process must also be fair. It must protect the rights of private property owners, take into account environmental and historic preservation concerns, and not unnecessarily usurp States' rights. That's why I will cast my vote in favor of the Hinchey amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 540. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to the Pence of Indiana amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT CORY ENDLICH

### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, with great sorrow I rise to pay tribute and recognize a dedicated soldier and citizen from my district. On Saturday, June 9, 2007, Army Sergeant Cory Endlich lost his life during hostile fire while patrolling an area northwest of Baghdad.

A 2003 graduate of Massillon Washington High School, Sergeant Endlich was a 4-year member of the Massillon Tiger Swing Band as well as a 2-year member of the cross country team. While many of his friends dreamed about becoming professional athletes, he dreamed of becoming a paratrooper for the United States Army. He was also a devoted citizen, helping in missions at home, including the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina before his deployment to Iraq.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. He had requested in his last letter to his mother for her to send coloring books, crayons and hard candy for Iraqi children he had befriended. Sergeant Endlich is a true hero and a reminder of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and all the good that is being done in Iraq.

Army Sergeant Endlich and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday, this body debated the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the upcoming fiscal year. During debate, I offered an amendment which would have added \$192 million for the purpose of supporting and diversifying the core mission of our Nation's laboratories. Although my amendment did not pass, I remain strongly committed to the idea that a diversification of the mission of our labs is essential and must take place now if we are going to continue to face—and solve—the major national security challenges of the future.

The debate of the amendment brought up several misconceptions and misunderstandings, and I want to take this time to reiterate the purpose and substance of the amendment.

First, some said that my amendment would increase "funding for new nuclear weapon development." This is simply not true. My amendment would return spending approximately to current levels—thereby not providing for the funding of new weapons. As I stated in my previous remarks, my amendment would target funding for three programs, all of which support securing and maintaining our Nation's existing weapons and the core mission of the laboratory. In fact, two of the three programs—the Road Runner Supercomputer and the Science Campaign—help ensure our current weapons supply remains safe, reliable and accurate through computer simulations of weapons in the place of real weapons testing. In the past, I have expressed great concern with the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program, and I continue to believe that numerous important questions regarding this proposal need to be answered before it proceeds. I doubt our need for a new weapon.

Second, some said that my amendment could "terminate most of the Nation's nonproliferation programs" and that opposing the amendment would "stop terrorists from acquiring nuclear materials." This is also not true. According to the committee report, \$75 million of the Office of the NNSA Administrator is set aside for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program. My amendment would have set total funding for the Office of the NNSA Administrator at \$215 million, more than enough to continue to fund the nonproliferation program. Further, my amendment did not in any way stipulate that the funding would come from the nonproliferation program. It should be noted that current funding for the Office is \$340 million. Clearly the \$415 million provided in this bill is a substantial increase for all programs. Even if my amendment had been adopted, the agency still could have completed these important tasks.

Third, some said that my amendment indicated that "jobs in New Mexico are more important than the overall national management of these sensitive national security programs." Certainly representing the constituency needs of the Third Congressional District of New Mexico is my primary concern. And, yes, those who would lose their jobs under this bill—technical, academic and support jobs in which many have spent decades—are worried. But let me be absolutely clear about this: Neither I nor a single member of the Los Ala-

mos community would for a moment rather protect these jobs than protect the safety and defense of our national security programs. The men and women who work at Los Alamos take great pride in their mission and service to our Nation. They understand the unique undertaking of the lab, and it is my honor to represent them.

Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday night I held a telephone town hall with the community of Los Alamos on this issue. During the town hall an informal poll question asked whether people support a diversification of the lab's mission. Eighty-four percent of the respondents—over half of whom were employees at LANL—supported such a diversification.

I do not believe that we must continue with a status quo mission for our national laboratories. Nor do I believe that creating a national security strategy in a policy vacuum without any regard for the needs of the future is the way to proceed. There is an absolute need, and, in fact, a great opportunity, for our national laboratories to diversify their missions and expand the scientific research being conducted in order to meet the challenges we are facing. From energy independence to health care to climate change modeling, we have the capacity for this diversification. I hope that in the coming months and years I will be joined by others who believe in this cause.

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE- LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2764, the FY08 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and related appropriations Act.

I am pleased that the bill includes \$75 million in funding for programs that address the needs of Afghan women and girls including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs, and women-led nonprofit organizations in Afghanistan. The Committee directs \$15 million of these funds to be made available as grants to support training and equipment to improve the capacity of women-led Afghan NGOs as well as their activities. This funding builds upon funding for Afghan women and girls included in an amendment that I offered to the FY2004 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill and funding included in subsequent appropriations bills.

During the past several years, the United States has invested in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan both because it is the right thing to do and because it is critical to our security. However, I, like many of my colleagues, am troubled by the circumstances facing women in Afghanistan. We have heard from Dr. Sima Samar, head of the Afghan

Independent Human Rights Commission, that Afghan women are losing ground. Many women continue to endure hardships including targeted violence, limited mobility, illiteracy, and a high rate of maternal mortality. I also am very concerned about reports that schools continue to be targeted for violence, including dozens in the past year. Clearly, we have more work to do.

While I hope that all the aid for Afghanistan will help women, I commend the Appropriations Committee for continuing to recognize the needs of Afghan women.

I would also like to commend Chairman LOWEY for her commonsense approach to refining the Global Gag Rule. Though I support a full repeal of this harmful policy, the Lowey provision is a first step toward eliminating the Gag Rule altogether—it will allow organizations to receive contraceptives which are proven to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. It makes sense and it's the right thing to do.

As a co-chair of the Human Trafficking Caucus and a long-time proponent of increased efforts to combat this global human rights travesty, I am pleased to note the language regarding trafficking in the report that accompanies this bill. Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the Department of State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee expressing my support for these critical initiatives to combat trafficking. The committee report includes a recommendation that the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Office at the Department of State retain control of the monies appropriated for TIP programs and not be subject to decentralized influence of field posts and to enable the TIP Office to disburse the necessary anti-trafficking funding to grantees more quickly. The committee also recommends the addition of six full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the TIP office so that it can effectively monitor its anti-trafficking grants and can effectively fulfill the vital, congressionally assigned responsibility given to the Senior Policy Operating Group, which it chairs, of monitoring and coordinating the domestic and international anti-trafficking grants and policies of all U.S. agencies.

The committee also has directed \$14,000,000 to the Trafficking in Persons program, which is \$5,300,000 above the President's request, and \$6,000,000 in INCLE (International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement) funding for activities to prevent trafficking in persons. I have worked closely with Ranking Member WOLF on this issue over the past few years, and I thank him for his leadership in the fight against trafficking and human rights abuses worldwide.

Finally, as a co-chair and co-founder of the Hellenic Caucus, I am pleased that the committee has restored funding for the Greek desk at Voice of America. Because Greece is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, maintaining this critical program is vital to U.S. interests in this important region of the world.

I commend Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member WOLF for their work in bringing this bill forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 541. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the King of Iowa Amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 449, 500 and 501, I was absent due to flight difficulties.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, during consideration of H.R. 2764 on the Pence Amendment thereto roll No. 540, my vote was mistakenly recorded as no; however, I intended to vote yes. I strongly support restrictions of financial aid to the Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza, unless the president certifies that it renounces terrorism, acknowledges the existence of Israel and abides by previous agreements reached between the Palestinians and Israel, with the exception of certain humanitarian aid. I would like the record to reflect my intent to vote yes on roll No. 540 in support of the Pence Amendment. Moreover, I voted multiple times in the 109th Congress in favor of the restrictions contained in the Pence Amendment. Furthermore, I voted in favor of final passage of H.R. 2764, which included the restrictions contained in the Pence Amendment.

#### WORLD REFUGEE DAY: ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF AFRICAN REFUGEES

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, two days ago, on June 20th, the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the occasion of World Refugee Day. This day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 to be commemorated each year in order to honor the contributions of refugees around the world and to call attention to the plight of those who continue to suffer as refugees. This day also coincides with Africa Refugee Day, which has been commemorated since 1975 and was es-

tablished by the Organization of African Unity Commission of Ten on Refugees as a way to raise funds for assistance for refugees in Africa.

It is shocking to consider that 12 million people in the world are refugees today, and almost a quarter of those, 3.2 million, live in Africa. In addition, Africa has an estimated 12 million Internally Displaced Persons, most of whom are victims of conflicts within their countries. Floods and droughts have also contributed to the displacement of large numbers of African people. More than half of the world's refugees have lived in camps for several years, with no foreseeable prospects for returning to their homes and a normal lifestyle.

No one can measure the suffering that often comes with being a refugee—being a stranger in a strange land, the inability of children to attend school, the frustration of parents unable to provide the basic necessities for their families, the hardships and fears that come with living in a tent, or having no shelter at all. One might forget that refugees often also are suffering the emotional trauma that results from violence inherent in the conflicts that produce refugees.

For that reason, it was particularly useful to hear the testimony of Neal Porter, the Director of International Services from the Center for Victims of Torture. Legislation that I have sponsored, including the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007 which passed the House on April 25, 2007 and is now pending in the Senate, provides authorization for programming that helps refugees and others suffering the effects of torture. I would encourage my colleagues in the Senate to act on this bill so that the Center for Victims of Torture and others who provide services to torture survivors can receive the assistance they so desperately need.

The international community accomplished a major milestone when it recognized refugees as having certain rights under international law in the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees plays a major role in ensuring that the promised resources and protection are provided. However, as laudable as international recognition and assistance are for assisting those forced to flee from their homes, far more needs to be done to prevent people from becoming refugees in the first place, and to accommodate the safe return and re-establishment of those already refugees or IDPs. This subcommittee hearing provided an important opportunity to examine what we in the United States and the world community can do in this respect.

Although I and others have devoted significant attention in recent months and years to the tragedy in Darfur, one can never overpublicize the desperate situation of the victims of the Sudanese Government's genocide. When I think of refugees, my mind immediately recalls those who I met in the Mukjar and Kalma camps, only some of the 2 million who have been displaced from their homes in that region. The term "displaced" does not begin to describe the nightmare situation that these people must live in. As we have heard through testimony at recent hearings on Darfur, these people long most of all not for food or shelter, though they have little of either, but for protection. And with good reason—over 450,000 people have died in the violence of Darfur.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, we could not forget those who voluntarily subject themselves to the same harsh conditions in order to care for and protect refugees and displaced persons. It was necessary to pay a special tribute particularly to the men and women who have suffered violence, many to the point of death, in their efforts to assist the people of Darfur. Humanitarian groups there have reported being harassed by the Government of Sudan and deliberately attacked by rebel groups. Over a dozen humanitarian workers have been killed over the past year. In mid-December 2006, armed groups launched a major attack against NGO compounds in Gereida, South Darfur. On January 19, 2007, Sudanese Government security forces arrested and severely beat 20 UN staff members in Nyala, South Darfur. On February 5, 2007, a civilian police officer with AMIS was killed in an IDP camp in the North.

The men and women who risk their welfare and their very lives to care for these refugees truly live out the words, "I was hungry, and you gave me food; thirsty and you gave me drink; a stranger, and you welcomed me." I convey to these heroic men and women my personal gratitude for lending their hands and hearts to some of our poorest brothers and sisters.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 542. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on agreeing to H.R. 2764, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations for FY 2008.

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#### HONORING MS. JILL CARPENTER NOAA TEACHER AT SEA

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Jill Carpenter, an outstanding constituent and educator from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, for her dedication to bringing real scientific research to the classroom.

Ms. Carpenter, a fifth grade teacher at Hutchinson Farm Elementary in South Riding, VA, was chosen last summer by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Teacher at Sea Program to participate in a ten-day research cruise on the Atlantic Ocean. From aboard the NOAA Ship DELEWARE II, Ms. Carpenter not only researched fisheries, but also interviewed scientists, maintained daily logs, and engaged in dialogue with her fellow teachers, students and the general public. She took part in the Teacher at Sea experience in order to enrich her curriculum and excite her students about the sciences.

In her log, Ms. Carpenter wrote, "It is exciting to see science experiments happening

every day, with real people in a real-life context, instead of reading about it from a worksheet or having that intangible image in my mind of a mad scientist in a white lab coat stirring a beaker of something bubbling. Science is accessible to everybody! You don't have to be in a fancy laboratory or have the latest equipment. It can be done inside or out, on a boat or in your backyard. Science encompasses so many fields and is available to anyone with a curious mind. I am excited to share this realization with my students and make science more real to them. I am looking forward to returning home to my family, friends, and classroom and sharing my experience with them. This trip has been invaluable to me in so many ways. I have met with many amazing people, I have participated in recording ocean data, and I have seen how much thought, effort and talent goes into running a fisheries research vessel. I gained hands-on knowledge and experience." Ms. Carpenter was supported by a partnership between the Loudoun Education Foundation and the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program.

I am proud to call attention to Ms. Carpenter's dedication. I congratulate Ms. Carpenter on her spirit of adventure, her willingness to try new things, and her ability to bring this experience back to the classroom. I also commend the Loudoun County School district and the Loudoun Education Foundation for supporting the efforts of this teacher to promote scientific education in the classroom.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2007 and Wednesday, June 20, 2007, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 499, 500, 501, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525 and 526.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on the following rollcall votes: 499, 500, 501, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 521 and 526, and "nay" on the following rollcall votes: 517, 518, 519, 520, 522, 523, 524 and 525.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE PETERS

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mike Peters and to thank him for his leadership in the fight against cancer. Through his internationally-acclaimed music, his Love Hope Strength Foundation, and through his personal victories over cancer, Mike Peters has been a source of inspiration and hope to the millions affected by cancer around the world.

Mike Peters is best known as the vocalist of the legendary Welsh rock band, The Alarm, whose music has received critical acclaim and commercial success worldwide. After being diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in

1995, he could have canceled his band's upcoming tour and fought his illness in private. Instead, he courageously moved forward with the tour and, as Mike has put it, "went to war with his mind," wearing his now-famous green combat fatigues throughout the tour, and keeping a positive outlook on his life. When he returned, that courage and optimism paid off—his condition had reversed and he no longer needed treatment.

Ten years after his first victory over Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, he found out he would have another battle ahead. In 2005, he was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. These cancers develop within a patient's lymphatic system and can be difficult to treat, depending when it is caught. Significant strides have been made in finding treatments for leukemia and lymphoma, but more must be done to prevent these diseases from occurring and to alleviate the suffering of so many who are diagnosed with these diseases every year.

With the same positive attitude and green combat fatigues that carried him through his first battle with cancer, Mike did not let his diagnosis slow him down. Using his musical talents and network of artists, Peters established the Love Hope Strength Foundation to build a support network for cancer patients worldwide. The goal of the Foundation is to increase funding for cancer research, lighten the financial strain of medical care on cancer patients and their families, and inform government officials about the concerns of cancer patients. Peters continues to maintain a busy tour schedule, giving inspired performances and raising awareness about his foundation and the fight against cancer.

Mike Peters should be applauded for not taking his diagnosis without a fight. His personal victories over cancer and his foundation's programs are giving hope to families and communities worldwide. His efforts are an example for how one person can turn his struggles into a triumph and an inspiration for others, and it is my privilege to honor him here today.

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#### PAULA BLINCOE COLLINS' ART SELECTED FOR THE CITY OF DENTON

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, it is my greatest pleasure to announce that Paula Blincoe Collins of Denton has been selected by the Denton Public Art Committee to create its first commissioned piece of public art which is to be displayed in the lobby of the Denton Civic Center. The piece is a mural that portrays Quakertown, an African-American settlement that stood where the Denton Civic Center is before it was relocated to Southeast Denton in the 1920s.

The artist Paula Collins is well known for her skills in brick sculpture. Among her many creations are two previously completed projects for City facilities, the "Woman of Justice" installed in 1994 and two entrance monuments erected in Denton at the Pecan Creek Waste Management facility in 2000.

For this project, which is expected to be completed in spring 2008, Ms. Collins will consult with the descendants of the original

Quakertown residents. Together they will select a wide assortment of images that represent life in that community and which will be depicted on the brick mural.

The nine-member Public Art Committee was appointed by the City Council in 2006 to promote the cultural environment, tourism, enhance community aesthetics, improve the quality of life by allowing people to experience art in public places, showcase cultural diversity, and create a distinctive city identity. It serves as an advisory committee to the Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board, which are also council appointed. The director of the Greater Denton Arts Council serves as an ex-officio member and the director of the Denton Parks and Recreation Department is staff liaison to the committee. Its funding comes from the hotel tax funds allocated annually for public events and projects that make Denton an attractive tourist venue.

I am honored to serve such a talented individual like Paula Collins, and I know that her art will beauty our great city.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote 543. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 502, providing for the consideration of H.R. 2771, Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 2008.

#### HONORING OUTSTANDING AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSICIANS DURING BLACK MUSIC MONTH

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of African American musicians as we celebrate Black Music Month.

Music has a deep historical significance to African Americans, who are truly the founders and keepers of American music. The roots of gospel and blues can be traced back to the slave plantations. During slavery, African Americans sang songs and clapped hands to communicate with one another and to uplift their spirits. The music helped to sustain enslaved people and provided an outlet to express their hopes and fears. During the Civil Rights Movement, African American musicians offered encouragement and hope for an America in which all people would be treated equally. By creating and popularizing gospel, blues, jazz, funk, disco, pop, and hip-hop, they have inspired and entertained people from all races around the world.

I wish to thank President Carter, who in 1979 initiated the annual celebration of Black Music Month each June. Each succeeding president has continued to proclaim June as Black Music Month.

Among the many talented and gifted African American musicians, who have inspired us in

ways that transcended their music, I have introduced legislation in the 110th Congress to honor Lionel Hampton, Lena Horne, James Brown, and Ray Charles. Their commitment to uplifting America through song and activism has made them legendary.

Lionel Hampton, an accomplished jazz musician, band leader, U.S. goodwill ambassador, became a musical icon in a career that spanned more than 50 years until his death in 2002. He composed more than 200 pieces and was honored by President Clinton with the National Medal of Arts in 1996. The University of Idaho's music school and annual jazz festival are named in his honor.

The extraordinary Lena Horne was not only a Broadway performer, world renowned singer, and actress, she was a steadfast civil rights activist. Putting her career on the line, she proudly spoke out against racial discrimination. As a result, she was blackballed.

However, her hardship was not in vain because she has been a trailblazer and role model for aspiring African American entertainers. She was honored with the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1989. Her most recent album *Seasons Of Life* was released in January of 2006. She currently resides in New York and on June 30, 2007, will turn 90 years old.

James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," who passed away in December of 2006, was a monumental influence on popular music in America and around the world. During the sixties, many of his songs were more than dance hits and became anthems for the Civil Rights Movement. His music instilled pride in African Americans as they were fighting for equality. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986 and was the recipient of the 34th Annual Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992.

The phenomenal Ray Charles overcame blindness and personal problems to become one of America's most inspiring artists. His music advanced the civil rights movement and united Americans. He has been credited with singing the most popular rendition of America the Beautiful. His version of Georgia On My Mind was made an official Georgia state song and he was ranked number ten in 2004 for Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest Artist of All Times list. In that same year, he passed away. I introduced legislation to award him with a Congressional Gold Medal.

These musical legends and many other African American musicians have contributed to American music and the nation's cultural identity around the world. I urge my colleagues to support legislation to honor them. I also urge my colleagues and people around the world to celebrate, honor, and cherish the contributions of African American musicians, especially during Black Music Month.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of a project that deserves the support of every member of this House. The Great Lakes Energy Research Park, which is to be located in the heart of the district I represent, will be the first Integrated Gasification Combined-Cycle facility in the world to co-produce (1) over 728 Mw of electric power and (2) permanently sequester over 3.8 million tons per year of carbon dioxide which will ultimately recover over 180 million barrels of stranded oil. Let me repeat that—180 million barrels of stranded oil. I'm not talking about new drilling in environmentally sensitive areas and I'm not talking about opening up new wells. I am talking about finally tapping much needed resources that yesterday's technology simply could not drive out of the ground. Additionally, it is important to note that this bed of oil reserves is located in the geographic center of Michigan—not in the Great Lakes, and far from Hurricane Alley, where most of our crude wells lie. As we learned from Katrina, geographic diversity is as an important topic in the energy debate as is alternative energies. So, as we discuss utilizing new technologies, clean technologies to solve our dependence on foreign crude, we would be foolish to ignore the types of technology being put in place in Alma, Michigan.

This project, however, is about much more than recovering stranded oil. This facility is designed in such a way to virtually utilize every byproduct of energy production. With this type of forward thinking it is no wonder that the project has received support from a wide variety of local community groups, institutions, citizens and organizations. Included among the list of proponents are the City of Alma, Michigan, Firstbank of Alma, Michigan, the Gratiot Medical Center, Alma College, the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners and the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Chairman, as American families and businesses grapple with rising energy costs, the Great Lakes Energy Research Park can be a part of the solution. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this unique effort to produce more energy here in America.

#### HONORING DR. JOSEPHINE ELIZABETH SEATON FRANKLIN ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman, a resident of the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois, Dr. Josephine Elizabeth Seaton Franklin on her 80th birthday.

Dr. Josephine Elizabeth Seaton Franklin was born July 1, 1927, in Cleveland, Ohio. During her long career in education, she obtained a master degree and doctorate degree in education, having taught in Virginia, Michigan and Chicago, IL.

She is a founding member and the first president of Theta Rho Omega Chapter, of

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The chapter has given more than \$90,000 to scholars, and raises these funds through the Josephine Elizabeth Seaton Franklin Foundation. The foundation provides academic scholarships and funds for community projects. Through her foundation she has worked diligently to cultivate the scholarship program for 44 years.

Dr. Franklin is the proud aunt of Maryland Delegate Marvin B. Holmes, Jr. Delegate Holmes was elected to the Maryland State Legislature in 2002 and currently serves on the House Environmental Matters Committee, is the Chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee and is the Deputy Majority Whip.

On her 80th birthday, I join with her community, friends, and family in saluting her for devoting her time and talents to make our country a better place to live. This gracious lady has unselfishly dedicated herself to educational and humanitarian causes. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank and congratulate Dr. Franklin.

HONORING THE ALFRED E. ZAMPELLA P.S. SCHOOL NO. 27 IN JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY ON BEING NAMED A "HEART OF GOLD" AWARD WINNER

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Alfred E. Zampella School (formerly Public School No. 27) in Jersey City, New Jersey. This renowned school is named after my good friend and constituent, Alfred "Al" E. Zampella, a lifelong resident of Jersey City and for 27 years, the Principal of Public School No. 27. As a former teacher and principal, Al was a guiding force in the lives of thousands of students as he encouraged them to remain in school and use their formal education to succeed in life.

Al retired in 1990 and on November 7, 1996, Public School No. 27 was formally dedicated as the Alfred E. Zampella P.S. No. 27 in his honor. Today the school continues the outstanding and acclaimed work started by Al Zampella, and the school recently received the prestigious "Heart of Gold" Award from Mission: Kindness International, Inc./Statewide Kindness Awareness Campaign for 53,926 "Acts of Kindness" performed by 1,040 students and teachers.

Among these generous "Acts of Kindness" were school projects and fundraisers to benefit UNICEF, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, March of Dimes, the Leukemia Foundation, the American Heart Association, and countless other programs made possible by the selfless participation and volunteerism of the students and teachers at the Alfred Zampella School. They are very deserving of our congratulations and recognition for their altruistic spirit.

I am very pleased to offer this well-deserved tribute to my good friend, Al, and to the students and faculty at the Alfred E. Zampella School P.S. No. 27 in Jersey City for the "Acts of Kindness" they performed in their school and community.

Not only is Al a member of many boards and organizations in Northern New Jersey, he also continues to serve the people of Jersey City as one of my staff assistants and Jersey City liaison. I am pleased to join with his beloved wife, Jaclyn; his sons Edward, Walter and Gary, and his six grandchildren in applauding the spirit of kindness started by this exceptional individual.

It is only fitting that the school named in his honor was awarded such a distinguished award. My very best wishes to all the students and faculty at the Alfred E. Zampella School P.S. No. 27.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 544. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to H. Res. 502, providing for the consideration of H.R. 2771, Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 2008.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES PRATHER JONTZ

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, in the 190 years since Indiana achieved statehood, many well-educated, aspiring individuals from the Ohio River to Lake Michigan have represented its citizens. Perhaps none of them came to Washington more dedicated to the ideal of representing the common man than James Prather Jontz. I rise today to honor his life and service to Indiana.

Jim was born in Indianapolis in 1951, graduated from Indiana University in less than three years, completed graduate work at Purdue University and was an instructor at Butler University. His political career was sparked by his opposition to a dam building project in Central Indiana, and at the age of 23, he became a member of the Indiana House of Representatives. After representing his district for ten years, he was elected to the Indiana Senate where he established a reputation for standing up for his convictions.

In 1986, Jim was elected to The United States House of Representatives where he served three terms. In Congress, Jim fought for his constituency's issues. Jim valued his own college education and he did what he could to promote college attainment in a state that long has trailed the national average on college attainment. He served on the House Agriculture Committee and worked to develop a new farm bill to benefit his district's farmers. He worked for our service members and national security needs by overseeing the transition of the Grissom Air Force Base to the Grissom Air Reserve Base.

During his tenure Jim sought and secured federal funding for the first steps of the Hoosier Heartland Corridor, one of Indiana's most important highway projects. This project was stalled in the construction phase for nearly 20 years, but, because of his efforts, it was designated as one of 21 national priority corridors. Today, land acquisition is proceeding for the completion of the final 40 miles of that corridor.

Jim might be best remembered for championing environmental causes. He worked to protect the Pacific Northwest's old-growth forests and to foster collaboration between organized labor and environmentalists. His work on behalf of our natural resources and environment drew national attention.

Following Jim's tenure in the House, he continued advocating for the environment while serving as President of Americans for Democratic Action from 1998 to 2002. He moved to Oregon to work with forest preservation groups. Jim's final project was leading Working Families Win, an effort to raise the minimum wage and improve health care for the uninsured. His dedication to his fellow Americans continued until his death earlier this year.

Jim Jontz raised the bar for civic engagement, both for his peers and his constituents. He raised awareness about many important issues. For the people of his district, he raised their expectations that one man can make a difference in so many areas of our society. Today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I honor James Jontz for his years of unselfish dedication to his district, his state and his country.

IN MEMORY OF CONSTANCE GOINES

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 22, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Constance Goines. Mrs. Constance Goines, age 60, passed away Tuesday, June 19, 2007.

Mrs. Goines was the beloved principal of Van Zandt Guinn Elementary School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Her work was dedicated to creating a safe and welcoming atmosphere for students who came from struggling families but had a desire to learn in their hearts. Under her fine leadership, the campus developed a reputation for helping students perform at high academic levels despite their social challenges.

Her commitment to education, to students and to the entire community were evident throughout her life. It is my hope that she will be remembered for her compassion and that others will follow her lead.

Mrs. Constance Goines is survived by her husband of 33 years, Conley R. Goines of Fort Worth; a daughter, Kelly D. Mirtia of Fort Worth; and a brother, Larry G. English of Chicago.

It was an honor to represent Mrs. Constance Goines in Washington.